

The rise of a Muslim outback

Australian Muslims are reasserting their identity in a backlash to the Salman Rushdie affair

By Christinn Powell
Special to The Star

SYDNEY, Australia - In the two decades since Australia abandoned its 'whites only' immigration policy the variety of ethnic groups now represented there has mushroomed. Among them are substantial numbers of Muslims from the Arab world, Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Fiji, Yugoslavia and Albania.

While there were difficulties adjusting to a new society with an alien language and customs, most Muslims adapted well and kept a low profile. But the Lebanese civil war, coupled with the furor that followed the publication of Salman Rushdie's 'The Satanic Verses', changed all that.

In the outback town of Broken Hill a red iron clad building is being restored after years of neglect. The first mosque to be built in Australia more than 100 years ago is now a symbol of recognition of the contribution made by early Muslim settlers from north India and Afghanistan.

Dost Mohammad, a Pathan from Kashmir, was the first. He brought 24 Peshawar camels from Karachi to assist the ill-fated explorers Burke and Wills who perished while making the first north to south crossing of the continent. Dost Mohammad survived the journey only to die later in the outback after an accident with a camel. Many other

camel handlers followed him in journeying across Australia. They were known as 'Ghans' - a corruption of Afghan.

They were tough and resourceful and contributed greatly to the opening up of Australia, helping to build the first overland telegraph line and the trans-Australia railway. As they moved, they established mosques and carried their religion to the remotest areas.

Today in Broken Hill, their descendants remain a distinct community with names such as Fozzalla, Shirdeh, Zadeh and Azi.

Bobby Shamroz, whose grandfather came from Peshawar and was the religious leader of the small community, says that although the last of the Afghan Muslims died many years ago, a handful of new Muslim residents have revived the mosque so that their call to worship is once again heard in Broken Hill.

However, a recent government-funded study found that as a religious group Muslims were Australia's least favourite body of people. The survey did not reportedly provide the reason for this prejudice. At the same time, Lebanese immigrants were found to be the least well-liked by other Australians from all ethnic backgrounds.

Asif Saleem, the administrative officer of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, a federal body responsible for making representation to the Australian and foreign governments, blames the 'negative attitude' of the local media for stirring things up. After Ayatollah Khomeini's fatwa condemning Salman Rushdie to death for blasphemy and apostasy, one self-proclaimed Muslim extremist interviewed on a television programme threatened to kill Rushdie and bomb stores selling

Islam was abroad in the hitherto peaceful suburbs and all Muslims seemed to be potential hit-men.

There was a predictable backlash. Newspaper editorials condemned the threats and called for some Muslims to be deported. For their part Muslim leaders said that there had been attacks on those Muslim women who were identifiable by their veils.

Dr Omar Lum, vice-president of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, insisted that Australian Muslims were 'law abiding and peace loving citizens of the country' who would pursue only non-violent means to express their grievances against Rushdie's book. And he appealed to Australians to show sensitivity and respect. Government officials hastily reviewed the possibility of

resurrecting a proposed blasphemy law which was dumped in 1983.

Whether they liked it or not the Australian Muslims were headline news. In the following months a number of other incidents occurred, mainly associated with the Lebanese Muslim community. In the wake of the 1975 civil war thousands fled their homeland for the sanctuary of Australia, bringing their family and community allegiances with them. Not surprisingly, whenever there is a major politi-

cian threat there were also issued against TV presenter Richard Carlton after he made what Saleem described as 'insensitive and provocative remarks' during an interview with an alleged Muslim radical on his current affairs programme 'Sixty Minutes'.

While demonstrators wearing 'Kill Rushdie' T-shirts demonstrated outside city mosques, and the media had a field day, most Australians were confused and dismayed. Suddenly militant Is-

lam was abroad in the hitherto peaceful suburbs and all Muslims seemed to be potential hit-men.

There was a predictable backlash. Newspaper editorials condemned the threats and called for some Muslims to be deported. For their part Muslim leaders said that there had been attacks on those Muslim women who were identifiable by their veils.

Dr Omar Lum, vice-president of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, insisted that Australian Muslims were 'law abiding and peace loving citizens of the country' who would pursue only non-violent means to express their grievances against Rushdie's book. And he appealed to Australians to show sensitivity and respect. Government officials hastily reviewed the possibility of

resurrecting a proposed blasphemy law which was dumped in 1983.

Whether they liked it or not the Australian Muslims were headline news. In the following months a number of other incidents occurred, mainly associated with the Lebanese Muslim community. In the wake of the 1975 civil war thousands fled their homeland for the sanctuary of Australia, bringing their family and community allegiances with them. Not surprisingly, whenever there is a major politi-

cian threat there were also issued against TV presenter Richard Carlton after he made what Saleem described as 'insensitive and provocative remarks' during an interview with an alleged Muslim radical on his current affairs programme 'Sixty Minutes'.

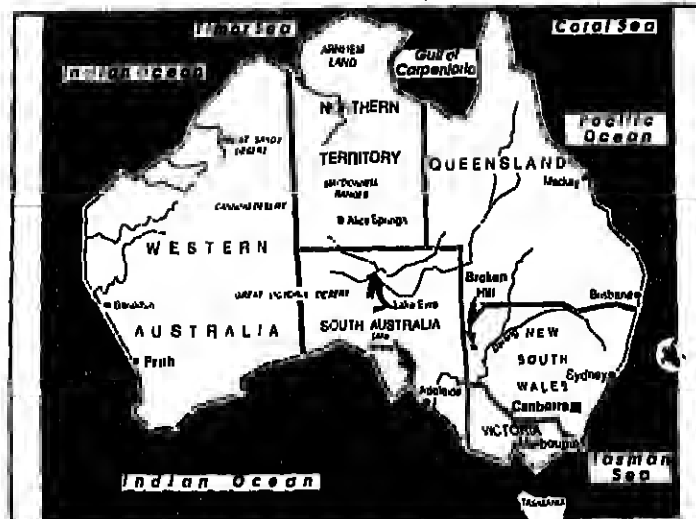
While demonstrators wearing 'Kill Rushdie' T-shirts demonstrated outside city mosques, and the media had a field day, most Australians were confused and dismayed. Suddenly militant Is-

lam was abroad in the hitherto peaceful suburbs and all Muslims seemed to be potential hit-men.

There was a predictable backlash. Newspaper editorials condemned the threats and called for some Muslims to be deported. For their part Muslim leaders said that there had been attacks on those Muslim women who were identifiable by their veils.

Dr Omar Lum, vice-president of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, insisted that Australian Muslims were 'law abiding and peace loving citizens of the country' who would pursue only non-violent means to express their grievances against Rushdie's book. And he appealed to Australians to show sensitivity and respect. Government officials hastily reviewed the possibility of

resurrecting a proposed blasphemy law which was dumped in 1983.



Rushdie affair spawns new art

By Sajid Rizvi
Special to The Star

LONDON - The Salman Rushdie affair may be far from resolved, but it has given artists in Britain ready fuel for a vigorous new dash into creativity the like of which has not been seen for some time.

Most inspired by the many-sided implications of the author going into hiding to escape a death verdict by Iran's religious leaders are the artists who have had some contact with the Muslim community in Britain on the social or artistic level. At the smaller galleries in London, artists or painters are emerging with the 'Rushdie theme'.

One of the more noteworthy artists to appear with her own interpretation of the Rushdie affair is the South African-born Deanna Petherbridge, who recently exhibited her ink and wash drawings.

Explaining her work, 'The Judgment Against Rushdie', Petherbridge stressed she was not indulging in polemical art but rather striving for a place in art history. It's a remarkable image which she presents in the ink and wash drawing. The background of the picture is awash with light which, she said, is the

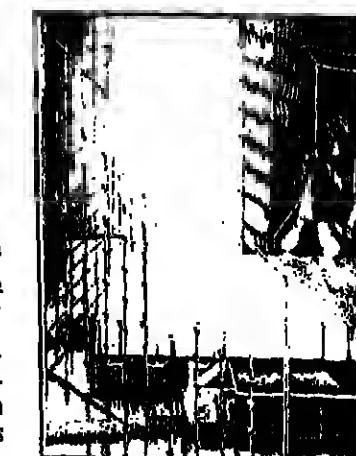
light of spirituality and faith.

"What the West very often doesn't understand about Islam is that it is actually a great religion," she said in an interview. "It's not just a series of statues, as the West likes to think, for personal living, for restrictions. It is also a religious experience. This is perhaps difficult for the West to understand as we no longer really see the spirituality of Christianity and we project that on to our misunderstanding of other religions". In the foreground of the picture, she presents opened-out bars which, she said, are symbolic of "narrow thinking."

Over the years, Deanna Petherbridge has been working on aspects of Islam and Hinduism. In the 1970s she did a major series on Islam, then she devoted herself to the arts of Moghul India and Indian architecture. She explained that because she was trained within a western environment of formal abstract tradition, the way she interpreted other cultures inevitably was shaped by her upbringing and her background. "My work has always been in a sense a dialogue (with) a sensitivity for those other cultures."

While growing up in South Africa, she came in close contact

with the harsh realities of life. "Life and death and the most important issues had confronted me every day of my life; I understood about repression and suf-



"The Judgment Against Rushdie", ink and wash drawing by Deanna Petherbridge.

fering. I had seen and experienced it from a very cushioned position of being white." As a result, when she took up art in the 1960s, she did so in earnest and with a seriousness lacking in the general artistic scene at the time. This devotion to topicality has stayed with her since and is re-

flected in her latest work.

Of "The Satanic Verses", she said, she found parts of the novel "extraordinarily funny" and "other parts offensive." Rushdie, she said, seemed to have been "inspired by a sort of existential anger. It's almost as if he has got himself into a bind by default."

She agreed that the Rushdie affair had brought home to a lot of people the smallness of the world community. "Not many people really have quite woken up to those implications." She said she found it tragic that much of modern art failed to deal with the important issues confronting the community. Instead, trivia was receiving an attention which it didn't deserve.

As for her own art, she said, she never wished to plan her creative career. "One's development is something with which one has a dialogue, but one doesn't actually direct. I will never sit down and think 'I am going to do this'."

"I am very wedded to the notion of the austerity of my means. There is no paint. There is no gold. There are denuded means: a simple piece of paper and pen and ink."

مطبخ
Peking Restaurant
Authentic Chinese food
Welcomes
customers during
all evenings of the Holy
Month of
Ramadan except
Mondays
Tel. 660250-681205

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

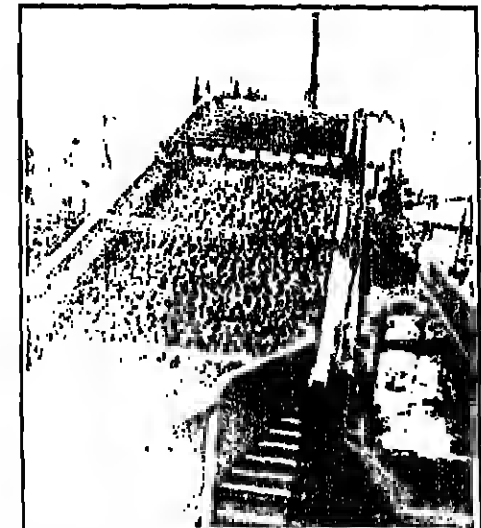
Amman, 29 March - 4 April 1990

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Vol : 1 No : 11

Are we giving enough?

Supporting the Lebanese



Marketing Jordan's produce, page 3



Planning for their future, utilizing human resources page 13



Showing off the thoroughbred, page 24
Islamic manuscripts attract attention, page 7
The best of Spain, page 6

Jordan, PLO to discuss efforts to convene Arab summit

AMMAN (STAR) - His Majesty King Hussein met Wednesday Mr Bassam Abu Sharif, special advisor to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. Discussions dealt with current situation in the Middle East. Mr Abu Sharif arrived in Amman on Wednesday.

Head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mr Farouq Karfouri, is expected to arrive in Jordan in the coming few days, for talks with Jordanian officials on means of realising the joint Jordanian-PLO efforts to convene an emergency Arab summit.

An unidentified Palestinian source told Ad Dustour Arabic daily that the near future will witness more co-operation and co-ordination between Jordan and the PLO, and high level Jordanian-Palestinian meetings will soon convene to discuss "very important political issues relating to the peace process as well as the Israeli expansionist plans".

Prime Minister Mr Mudar Ba-



dran met Wednesday with members of the Executive Committee of the PLO, Mr Yasser Arafat, and discussed with him the threat posed to the Arab nation by the influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants to the occupied terri-

tories.

In a previous meeting with Mr Abou Rabouh, Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Mr Marwan Al Qasem reiterated Jordan's position which supports PLO's struggle to achieve the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, especially the right to self-determination.

In a statement to Jordan Television on Tuesday, Mr Abou Rabouh said the meetings he held with Jordanian officials stressed the need for a more active joint Arab action in the face of the common challenges mainly the immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories.

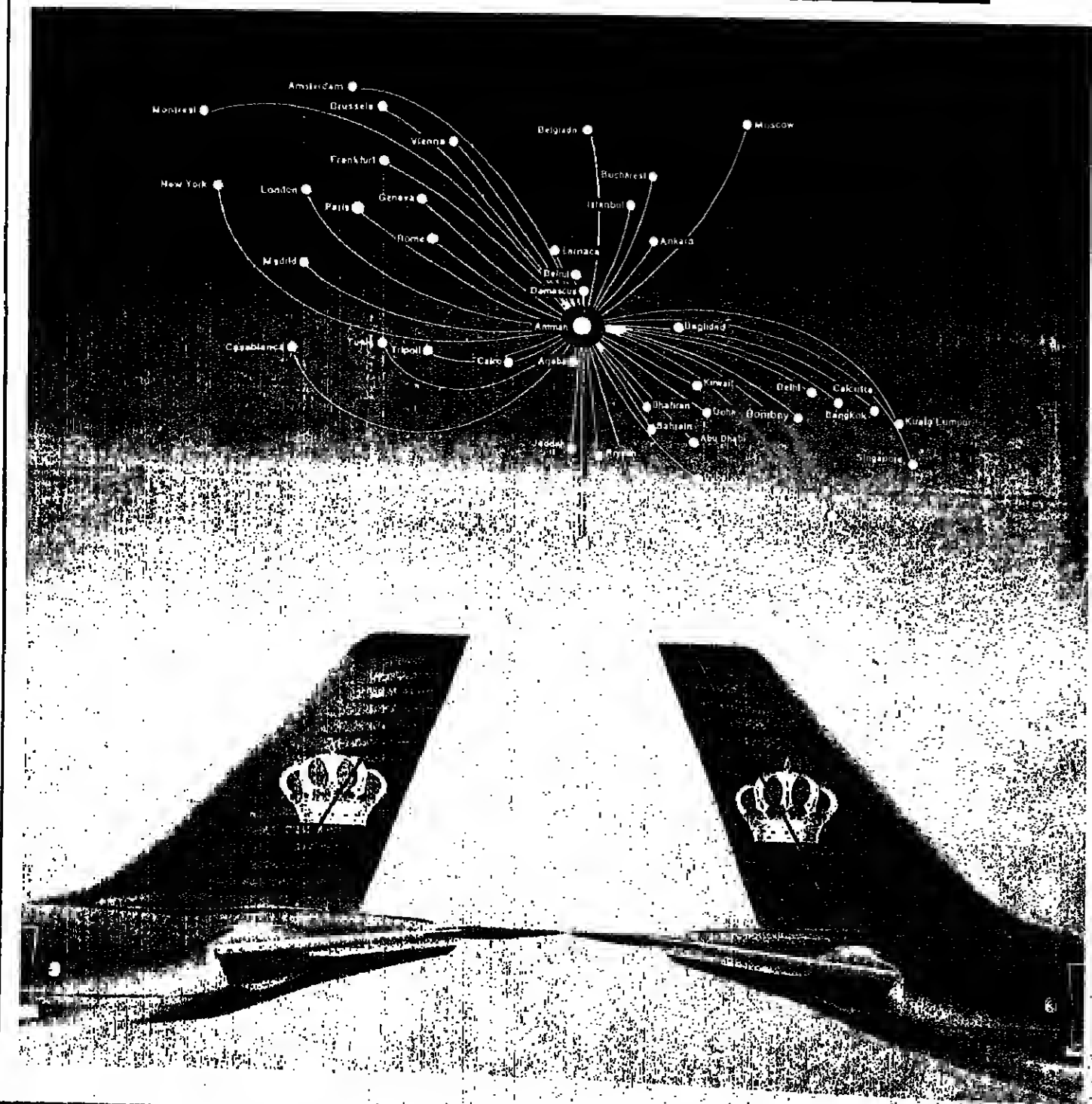
THE SECRET OF GETTING AIR CARGO TO AND FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

The secret of getting cargo to and from the Middle East quickly, efficiently and safely is a question of dedication.

That's why Royal Jordanian has cargo facilities at each one of its destinations as well as staff experienced exclusively in the handling of cargo, be it perishables or general shipments. Our computerized system allows you to monitor where your cargo is at any time en route to its final destination.

Add to that the ideal location of Amman, the center of the network and the heart of the Middle East, and you have a cargo service that really makes a difference. And that's no secret.

ROYAL JORDANIAN الملكية الأردنية



On the record

By Pam Dougherty

● The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights has expressed appreciation for Jordan's decision to grant members of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights the approval to form a chapter in the country.

In telegrams sent to His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Mudar Badran, the Committee said it was "encouraged by the commitment of the government to independent human rights advocacy in Jordan."

● The Ministry of Finance is said to be considering a proposal to freeze Jordan's annual financial contributions to a certain number of specialised regional and international organisations, due to the difficult economic situation in the country. The contributions, which are paid in foreign currencies, are estimated at \$1 million.

● The Star has learnt that negotiations are underway between the Jordanian and Libyan foreign ministries to re-exchange ambassadors between the two countries. A Libyan delegation is expected to arrive in Amman next month to pursue talks on this issue.

● A Swedish delegation arrived in Jordan last week for talks with Ministry of Finance officials on the rescheduling of Jordan's debt to Sweden.

● A royal decree allowing for the convening of an extraordinary session of Parliament is expected to be issued soon. The first ordinary session of the House ended on 27 March.

Focus on Parliament

By Ahmad Al Husban

Local press and foreign newspapers and agencies correspondents in the country Monday decided to boycott the session of the House. The decision came after some deputies launched a severe attack on the press for publishing details of a former session which the House held last week to discuss the report of its Finance Committee on corruption.

For Sale

Billiard table, American made. Good condition. With accessories. Res. Call 672330 or 679437 between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm daily.

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

While putting its house in order AMPCO explores new export markets

THE AGRICULTURAL Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) sold just 500 tonnes of vegetables to Europe in the 1989/90 winter season, all of them to Austria. The amount was small says AMPCO General Manager Ayed Al-Wir, but it was enough to give company staff vital training in efficient packing, grading and shipping procedures ready for much bigger sales in coming years.

AMPCO has had mixed fortunes since its establishment back in 1983, writing ambitious export contracts it was unable to fulfil and never able to achieve full use of its modern grading and packing plants in the Jordan Valley. Al-Wir says it is now putting its house in order ready to play a more active and efficient role at home and abroad. He says in the past AMPCO treated exports as a seasonal activity and failed to establish sound marketing strategies or an efficient infrastructure that could guarantee customers the quality, variety and timing necessary for long term success.

He identifies four different standards of market open to the company - Europe, the Gulf States, Syria and Lebanon and the local market - which enable AMPCO to contract with farmers to grow specified crops at specified times and then buy their full production to be sorted for sale to the appropriate market.

AMPCO's target for the 1990/91 season is to export a total of

around 10-15,000 tonnes of which 3-5,000 tonnes will be targeted for six to eight cities in Europe. Contacts have also been established in Qatar where the company plans to have its own representative and hopes to branch out to markets in Bahrain, eastern Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

For Jordan to achieve real success in the export field Al-Wir believes all the elements of planting, grading and packing and shipping must be co-ordinated more efficiently. He says Jordan's farmers need proper guidance on what to grow and when to grow it, reliable air and road transport must be developed. And he looks forward to a time when Jordan has a consortium of growers working to the same standards on labelling and packing, possibly even using one brand name and selling at a common price all of which would give them more muscle in deal-

ing with outside markets.

At home AMPCO is working on strategies to boost its role in all aspects of the handling of fresh produce, reorganising the company to improve staff effi-

ciency and developing new policies to maximise the use of its facilities.

In the last three months water and power generation and other facilities at the Ghir Al Safi and Al Rada tomato paste factories have been improved and the company hopes to produce 10,000 tonnes of tomato paste in 1990, up from 7,000 tonnes last year. According to Al-Wir the cost of production for tomatoes



Tomato paste - a successful industry not yet fully utilised

two Jordan Valley plants it may go to establish a third plant in the highlands where tomato yields can be as high as 100 tonnes per hectare compared with Valley yields of 50-60 tonnes per hectare.

Its greatest challenge may lie in bringing to life its comprehensive but so far poorly used grading and packing plants in the Jordan Valley. Al-Wir hopes to attract wholesalers with the offer of office and storage space, effi-

cient grading and packing facilities, availability of government certification and customs clearance and the added bonus of a mild winter climate during the main export season. He is confident that as many as 500 new jobs could be created at each centre.

A first step will be to move the wholesale market now run by AMPCO at Al Arda to one of the packing centres where the exporters now using the market will be offered space at the same rates they pay at Al Arda.

Facilities will be boosted in September when AMPCO's 15,000 tonne capacity cold store facility in the Jordan Valley will be completed. The facility will give the company greater flexibility in planning apple imports, which are now limited mainly to cold store apples from northern hemisphere growers. At present Jordan grows only 5-6,000 tonnes of its annual need of 25,000-30,000 tonnes of apples although local production should increase to 15,000 within the next three years and with greater investment in planting, self sufficiency could be possible in 8-10 years.

Ovenill Al-Wir believes AMPCO needs around four to five years to achieve all its goals but during that time a systematic entry into the European and Gulf markets and the better use of its tomato paste plants and packing and grading facilities can ensure the company of healthy returns enabling it to cope with its estimated JD 3.75-4 million in debts, earn reasonable profits, bring better returns to farmers and add to Jordan's export earnings.

Public debate on corruption cases continues

AMMAN (Star) - Public opinion in Jordan is still debating the financial and administrative violations which the Lower House of Parliament unveiled in its closed session last week and the nine cases which it referred to the attorney general. More information relating to various "corruption" cases that took place in the last few years is reportedly pouring in on deputies.

The House's Financial Committee's report, which was debated in the closed session, exposed a number of administrative and financial violations ranging in size and seriousness. The report is comprised of a number of reports which have been submitted to the president of the committee and were later distributed to the deputies. The violations covered the following sectors:

Supply

Supply cases were reported by the general inspector of the Ministry of Supply who pointed to the involvement of a former secretary general of the Ministry in a number of violations including:

- Transferring JD .250 million of Ministry funds to a local bank in Tafila. According to the report, the money was to be used to facilitate a loan to a senior Ministry official.
- Accepting one thousand tons of chicken which did not meet regular standards and which were earlier rejected by Egyptian authorities.
- Favouring one contractor by

referring all Ministry tenders to him.

● Covering personal letters of credit for a contractor even when these LCs had nothing to do with Ministry business.

● Allowing one contractor to sell imported meat as local fresh meat.

● Waving a fine of JD 27 thousand in 1988 by a senior Ministry official.

● Allowing a contractor to disregard the conditions of a tender knowingly. Also, the report pointed out that the Tenders Committee at the Ministry has not changed for the last eight years and that there were officials who dealt directly with certain contractors.

The barley case

Another supply-related case is the barley which is imported by the Ministry of Supply and distributed to local farmers as fodder. In 1987, the government agreed with an Arab country to import 32,000 tons of barley at a price of JD 20 per ton. But later a number of officials decided that local contractors should be given permits to import the above quantity. The contractors imported barley at a price of JD 20 per ton and resold it to the government for JD 40 per ton.

Contractors made a net profit of JD 640,000 of which JD 150,000 was deposited in the account of the wife of a former senior official. It is also said that the company which imported the barley be-

longs to a Lower House deputy, the wife of a former senior official, the son of a former minister and the son of a well-known personality.

The gold deal

It is alleged that the former government has sold 260413 gold ounces and after it was sold a decision was issued to make the sale legal. The Central Bank's assets were then reassessed at a new rate of exchange so that the reserves equaled in value their pre-sale value.

The desert highway

The committee saw a violation by the Ministry of Public Works at the time by referring the Aqaba-Al Jafar-Iraqi borders highway to an Indian company for JD 36 million in addition to other privileges. The actual cost of the project was estimated at JD 29 million. The Ministry had turned down a tender by another Indian company to execute the same project for JD 32.9 million.

Swaga Prison

Despite the repeated delays in finishing the project and the fact that the contractor had overdrawn more than the money allocated to him, and despite the decision of the previous government to refer the case to the attorney general, the matter was resolved outside the court and a sum of JD 747492 in addition to mil-

lions of dinars in settlement of additional costs of construction materials were paid to the contractor.

Ahu Neel Housing project

The Housing Corp. had agreed with a foreign company to execute the project for JD 23 million, but the tender was re-evaluated and the cost had risen

to JD 25 million. After sometime the contractor announced his inability to finance the project and a financial committee comprising ministers of public works, trade and industry, municipal affairs and the director of the Housing Corp. decided to increase the tender value by JD 9.5 million.

Continued on page 5



YARMOUK UNIVERSITY Announcement

The Language Centre at Yarmouk University invites applications for the academic vacancies available for the coming academic year 1990/1991.

Applicants must hold a Ph.D degree in Translation. Applications, accompanied by copies of relevant academic certificates, transcripts and at least two references, should be addressed not later than May 30, 1990 to:

Academic Staff Affairs Division
Yarmouk University
Irbid - Jordan.



The Star
Telephone & Fax 648298



All out for the support of the Intifada

By a Star Staff Writer

AROUND 1,200 volunteers Wednesday toured the streets of Greater Amman collecting donations for the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada (JPCSI). The activity was part of a week-long campaign aiming, among other things, at raising JD 2.5 million that will be used in helping and supporting the Palestinian people in their struggle against the Israeli occupation.

According to the Undersecretary of JPCSI Dr Mamdouh Al-Abbadi, the country-wide campaign received support from various public and governmental institutions but would still fall short of realising its ambitious objective of raising JD 5 million due to the hard economic conditions of most of the people.

But fund-raising is only one of the objectives of JPCSI, according to its Information Committee President Dr Asa'ad Abdul Rahman, who said all the activities of JPCSI are meant to be messages "to our brothers under occupation that we are with you."

He said that there was a time when Palestinians in the occupied territories felt that "they were alone in the battle." But thanks to the new atmosphere of democracy and liberalisation in Jordan, the JPCSI is now given the chance to demonstrate the true attitudes and feelings of the Jordanian people towards the Intifada, Dr Abdul Rahman said.

"We always had plans to activate efforts to support the Intifada and the masses inside the occupied territories but the political climate was not quite favourable for that" until the beginning of the democratisation process, he said.

However, the committee managed in the past to organise ac-

"Some Arab governments not only lack the enthusiasm to support the Intifada but also punish people who are active in trying to get help for it."

activities aimed at rallying political and financial support for the Intifada, but "they were in no way close to our ambitions," said Dr Abdul Rahman.

He said that during the first year of the Intifada, the committee was faced with bureaucratic obstacles, some of which had political motivation, and was not thus able to fully utilise the high feeling of support that was gen-



erated by the eruption of the Intifada.

Had the political climate been similar to the one prevailing now, "We could have collected double the amount we managed to collect in 1987," Dr Abdul

said that the number of the casualties of the Intifada is continuously increasing, and the committee, which pays JD 1000 to the family of every martyr, and JD 200 to every wounded person, has to raise more funds if it

other Arab countries will be willing to extend as much possible help as they can but they face certain hindrances that do not allow them to do so.

He said that some Arab governments not only lack the enthusiasm to support the Intifada but also punish people who are active in trying to get help for it.

"The masses are springs that are always full of resources," said Dr Abdul Rahman, adding that the only problem is that of how to mobilise them and give them the chance to express their feelings in financial terms.

Dr Abdul Rahman said that "we are trying to mobilise the whole Arab nation if possible through presenting a Jordanian example which is becoming closer every day to our goal of having the acts of supporting the Intifada become a way of life."

He said that the Jordanian experience in generating support for the Intifada is about to become an example to be followed

"Thanks to the new atmosphere of democracy and liberalisation in Jordan, the JPCSI is now given the chance to demonstrate the true attitudes and feelings of the Jordanian people towards the Intifada"

all over the Arab world. "Jordan is a poor country" and yet we are aiming at raising JD 2.5 million of funds. If another 20 million are raised in Kuwait, 20 million from Saudi Arabia, and 20 million in Libya and other rich countries, then we will be getting enough to support the Intifada without needing any governmental contribution," he said.



Dr Asa'ad Abdul Rahman

wants to meet the growing need for help in the occupied territories. "The Intifada has become a way of life in the occupied territories, and therefore the acts of supporting it should become a way of life for us," he said.

Dr Abdul Rahman said that the JPCSI cannot alone support the Intifada and Arab governments should also extend help to the Palestinian people. "I'm sorry to say that most Arab governments have not fulfilled their promises, let alone their duties, towards the Intifada," he said.

He said the Arab masses in

The number of casualties of the Intifada is continuously increasing, and the committee, which pays JD 1000 to the family of every martyr, and JD 200 to every wounded person, has to raise more funds if it is to meet the growing need for help in the occupied territories.

"There was a time when Palestinians in the occupied territories felt that they were alone in the battle."



Dr Mamdouh Al-Abbadi

Rahman said. But while the committee raised JD 1.3 million in 1987, it collected only JD 1.1 million in 1988 due to what Dr Abdul Rahman described as "a certain weakness in the drive despite the fact that we exerted more efforts."

Judging from the results of the first third of 1990, the situation this year seems to be more promising. According to Dr Abbadi, the committee in its current campaign, which started on 21 March when Jordan marked the anniversary of the Karama Battle

Sweden to help promote Jordanian business in Scandinavian countries

By Riham Dajani
Special to The Star

PROMOTING JORDANIAN business presence in Scandinavian countries was the topic of a meeting held at the Swedish Embassy in Amman last week.

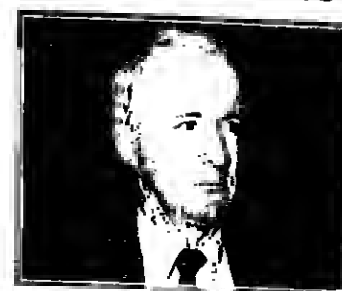
The meeting, hosted by Swedish ambassador to Jordan Mr Lars Loennback, followed a trade visit by a Jordanian business delegation to Sweden which was part of a promotional programme set up by the Swedish Import Promotion Office for Products from Developing Countries (IMPOD).

During the visit which was sponsored by the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Jordanian delegation discussed with Swedish officials means of promoting Jordanian industrial goods in European Markets.

Mr Akram Abu Zeid, deputy director of the Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) told The Star that members of the Jordanian delegation examined the nature of market demand for Jordanian goods in Scandinavian countries.

Mr Abu Zeid said that the delegation also discussed the importance of the participation of Swedish companies in the Jordanian International Fair, scheduled to be held in August this year.

With the objective of developing export markets for Jordanian goods, the delegation, which included, in addition to Mr Abu Zeid, six Jordanian garment manufacturers and a leather manufacturer, visited a number of European countries.



Mr Loennback

During their visit the seven Jordanian industrialists were able to identify technical specifications required by Scandinavian importers.

Here in Amman, the meeting at the Swedish embassy was intended to evaluate the outcome of the visit and to introduce the Jordanian delegation to leading members of the Scan-club, a state agency which aims at promoting Jordanian exports to Scandinavian markets.

UDD execute projects worth JD 2 million in Aqaba and Ruseifa

AMMAN (Star)--Two agreements were signed on Tuesday between the Urban Development Dept. (UDD) and local contractors to execute two projects in Ruseifa and Aqaba at a total cost of JD 2.14 million.

The first agreement concerns the building of two schools for boys and girls, a health centre, a civil defence centre and a social centre in Ruseifa. The cost of these projects is estimated at JD 1.7 million and will be finished by the end of next year.

The second agreement is for

the building of a secondary school for boys in Aqaba at a cost of JD 375,180. It will be finished by the middle of next year.

General Director of UDD Dr Hisham Al Zagha said government money will finance the two projects. He said UDD had co-ordinated with the Ministry of Education for the department to execute the building of the boys project while the ministry will oversee the building of the girl's school.

UDD had executed a housing project in Ruseifa in 1988, which is now occupied by 15,000 people. The department is now set to provide essential services to this project. Dr Zagha said the department will provide educational, health and social services to this housing area. The services will also benefit other residents of Yajouz and Ruseifa areas.

Annual general meeting of Arab Investment Bank held on Sunday

Amman (Star)--The general assembly of the Jordan Arab Investment Bank held its annual meeting on Sunday under the chairmanship of Mr Abdel Qader Al Qadi, chairman of the board of directors.

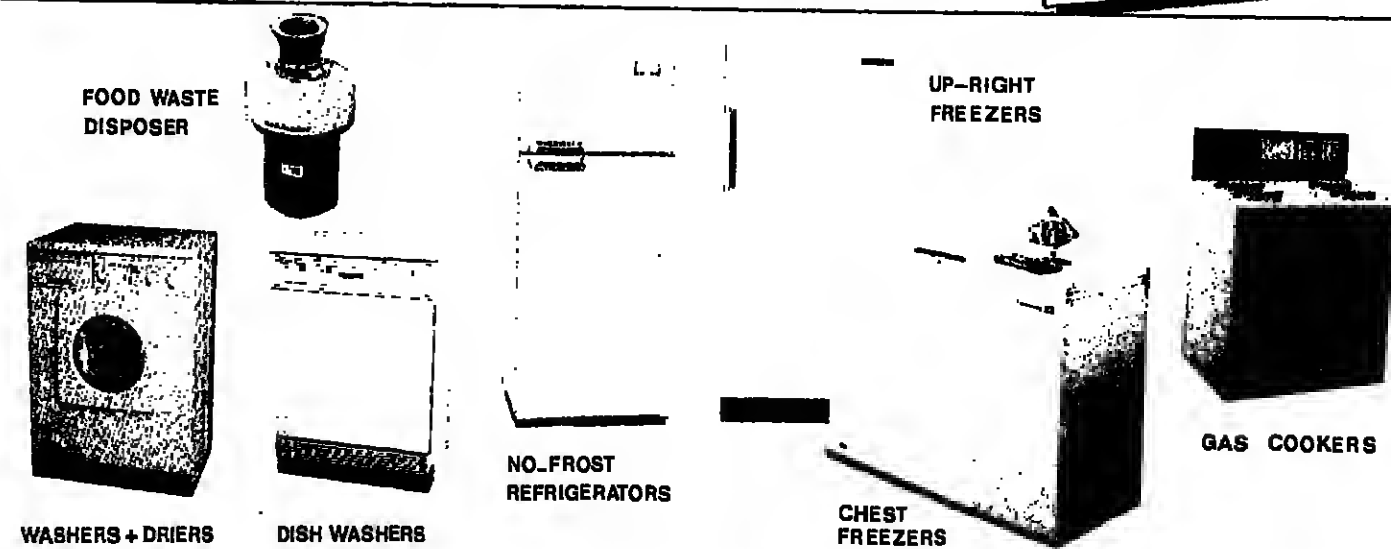
The board's report for 1989 was discussed and approved. The assembly adopted the 1989 budget, which recommended distribution of profits of 10 per cent.

A new board was elected of the following: Mr Abdel Qader Al Qadi, Qatar National Bank, Abu Dhabi Investment Corp., Arab Investment Co., External Arab Libyan Bank, National Commercial Bank, Dr Kamal Al Shaer, Mohamined Al Annad, Jordan Insurance Co, Samih Darwazah and Mohammed Asfour.

Kelvinator

A Tradition of Excellence in Home Appliances

Duty Free Availability



Mouasher Bros Co. Phone 622349 - 626623 - 621883 AMMAN - JORDAN



WORLD CUP CONTEST

BY FRANZ BECKENBAUER

...discover the stars of international soccer! Starting Next Week and Until June 15th

in
The Star

Prizes from Mercedes and Adidas

Original track suit, official World Cup football, official football shoes and jersey, in addition to collector item accurate miniatures of classic Mercedes cars

The best of Spanish art

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to The Star

AMMAN - On display at the Royal Cultural Centre until the end of the month is an impressive collection of prints by some of the most important contemporary Spanish artists. As diverse and varied as works in a particular medium can be, all of the 67 works are nevertheless linked by a definite cultural similarity. The artists, almost without exception, draw on the rich heritage of their country for their inspiration. Full of references to Spain's past and present, the works give an idea of the Spanish mind in all its facets.

Several of the artists unthinkingly employ cubism - which was of course spawned in Spain - as the basis of their work. Two of these, Rafael Solbes and Manuel Valdes cleverly insist in their work that Picasso's identity should not have been the regular card all of us carry, but a cubist picture. Alfredo Alcain's flat, brightly coloured work uses not only cubism to place itself but also a reference to that other uniquely Spanish pre-occupation the bull fight.

The two large and stunningly executed etchings by Fernando Bellver play not only with the idea of cubism, but also with the work of the French Naive artist, Henri Rousseau. In his first print, the jockey is riding a thoroughbred, his shirt, or colours show him to be riding on behalf of the great masters of cubism, Picasso, Braque and Gris. In the second print, the jockey is riding for Rousseau - on a Zebra out of a wild and abundantly verdant jungle. Full of beautifully rendered detail, the wry humour of these works carries a powerful punch.

Although a large proportion of the prints on show are abstract in nature, there are also many figurative works which cover the full range of the genre. At one end of the scale there is the hyper-realism of Roberto Gonzalez. In dramatically-lit black and white drawings he heightens our perception of the transparency of glass, of the way the light shines

through it, of the grain of wood, and of the texture of stone. To the reality he adds a touch of mystery - a disappearing figure, a disembodied arm. The delicate and precise depiction of 19th century architectural detailing also in black and white is the provenance of Carlos Diez.

Diez's sensitive drawings are lessons in composition, perspective and balance. Each element is echoed and re-echoed, while clever juxtapositions, like the palm tree next to the Corinthian column, gently explains age-old ideas. Although true to every detail, these drawings escape any photographic tendency and as such represent the best of this genre.

Amalia Avia's drawing of an interior and her keen observation of a closed shop front in a backstreet are strangely lonely pieces. Empty and alienating, these drawings suggest a sterility and desolation in the lives of the people whose presence, although never shown, is always indicated.

Moving on through the figure drawings of artists at work by Antonio Maya, which are more about texture and the play of light than of the figures themselves, we come to the fantasy drawings of Jose Hernandez. Reminiscent of the drawings of Max Ernst, Hernandez's "Larva" is a huge and disturbing mutant that intrigues and fascinates. Strange elongated figures that change from one thing into another also fill the work of Jorge Castillo.

Linked either by lines or by the coiling roots and branches of some exotic tree, these figures move resolutely forwards oblivious of nature around them. The lithographs of Julio Zachrisson, full of odd misplaced freaks, follow a similar vein.

From Angel and Vincente Pascual Rodrigo come the only landscapes in the whole show. Their two lithographs, full of soft hazy colours capture the generosity of nature under endless skies.

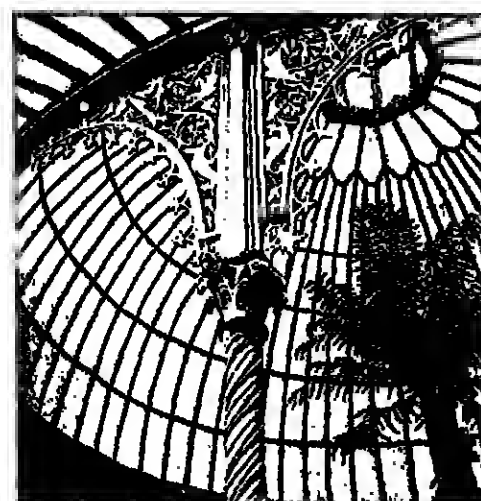
Finally among the figurative artist the work of Frederic Amat and Jaume Plensa must be men-



A Painting by Fernando Bellver.

tioned. The largest work on display, Plensa's Chinese Dragon executed in bold black strokes is a powerful and stirring image. The works of Amat on the other hand are soft colourful spontane-

A painting by Diez whose works are lessons in composition and balance



ous studies of the texture that playfully use leaves and frogs as their subject.

Bridging the gap between the figurative and totally abstract are works like Manuel Valdes' Felipe IV, a portrait after Velazquez which leaves only the face and hands white in a vast area of black relieved only by a line of texture where the monarch's col-

lar would have been, and Rafael Canogar's "The Hug." All that is seen in this print of deepest black is the mutual outline of an embracing couple baled with light.

The abstract work, always difficult to write about, falls into roughly two main categories - that of the precisely applied more formal work of controlled energy distinguished by areas of flat colour like that of Pablo Palazuelo and Jose Maria Iglesias and the work that is of a spontaneous nature full of exuberant vitality. The latter is typified by Joan Hernandez Pijuan whose bold black and white aquatint evokes the powerful downward plunge of a rushing waterfall, and by Josep Guinovart whose "Blue Calligraphs" billows with nebulous colours streaked with loose lines and dizzy scribbles. Somewhere in between are the works of such masters as Antoni Tapis whose brown oval hangs forever suspended in a sea of red and Albert Rafols Casamada. Full of tiny, cobweb fine lines that form gentle shadows across subtle shades of wine in one print, blue in another Casamada's etchings exert a uniquely enduring appeal. A similar feeling of calm is also a quality of the work of Jordi Teixidor. Although basically constructed of a mass of energetic strokes of colour, the soft deep tones quietly subdue the image, in the same way the twilight subdues the colours of the day.

Of the 37 Spanish artists participating in this exhibition the above is just a brief survey. Many other excellent works, too numerous to mention, make up the rest of this show which runs until 30 March.

Dining out...

Granada Hotel
&
Amigo Nabil Restaurant
Welcome you to a pleasant stay and sumptuous European & Oriental meals.
Located in a quiet yet central area.
1st circle, Jebel Amman,
Tel: 638031 & 622617

La Terrasse Restaurant
Oriental & European meals. Fresh fish daily
For reservations,
Tel: 662831, 601675.
Shmeisani, Amman.

RESTAURANT CHINA
The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle, Jebel Amman, near Alhijyah Girls School
Take away in new bubble
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel: 636065

MEXICAN FOOD
Between 1st & 2nd Circle
Jebel Amman
Tel: 654208
Open For LUNCH & DINNER

Alfredo Restaurant
Real Italian Cooking. Fresh Home-made pasta. Excellent quality meat, large selection of wines.
Mecca Street,
Tel: 821705

By Sophia Morollin
Special to The Star

LONDON - Two important Islamic manuscripts recently to hit the art market offer indication that the international auctioneers are trying very hard to drum up interest in a yet underpatronised field of collecting - the manuscript.

Although prices for Islamic texts, whether religious or secular, have gone through the roof in recent years, art experts insist they are still undervalued when compared with European manuscripts of the same era.

The two manuscripts recently to come on the market are being offered by the leading rivals in the art market, Sotheby's and Christie's. Both books will form part of their auctions in London in April.

"Ajab al Makhloqat" (Marvels of Creation), a manuscript by Al Ghazvini, is being described as the most important secular Arabic manuscript to come on the market for years.

It's a full manuscript with stunning illustrations of animals and is believed to have been executed around the third quarter of the 12th century. Nabil Saidi, manuscripts expert at Sotheby's said, "Art historians who specialise in early Arab printing are going to have a field day with this one, because it's probably the most important piece to come on the market for a very long time."

The illustrations in the manuscript echo Hellenistic and Byzantine influences, including the art of the mosaics of Syria which has led the experts to think the manuscript was made in Syria. Al Ghazvini, originally of Persian origin, settled in Damascus and greatly influenced the calligraphy and scholarship of the time.

The other manuscript, being offered by Christie's, is earlier than the Ajab, in fact the earliest known Islamic manuscript ever

to appear at auction, and it deals specifically with study of the universe.

"Amal bil Asturlab", a treatise on the function of the astrolabe, including charts and illustrations of the constellations, apparently was based on work done with a Greek astrolabe by two leading authorities in 10th century AD Islamic astronomy.

The author, Abd Al Rahman bin 'Umar Al Sufi Al Razi (AH 291-376/AD 903-986), was an astronomer known for several important texts as well as his work at the Palace Observatory in Baghdad, which was an important seat of astronomical studies under the Abbasids and the Buwayhids.

The illustrator was Muzaffar bin Hibatullah Al Asturlabi, a

Islamic manuscripts stir up the art market



Islamic manuscripts—a vastly neglected and under-priced field of collecting

specialist in astrolabes, whose drawings include a fine geometrical chart signed and dated AH 372, as well as an animated red and black pen-and-ink depiction of Orion brandishing a dagger.

According to Christie's the volume is the only known 10th century Islamic manuscript bearing illustrations. The manuscript includes a table of contents with a postscript dated Sha'ban 372 AH (January 983 AD) in which Al Razi marvels at the astrolabe. Both manuscripts are expected to fetch at least £70,000 to £100,000 each.

Meanwhile, another Christie's sale in April of important travel books, atlases, architecture and natural history books will feature a section devoted to landscapes of the Middle East and Asia.

"Oriental Scenery", in six volumes dated 1795-1808 by Thomas and William Daniell, is one of only a few complete sets of the artists' coloured aquatints to have survived.

The two artists left England in 1785 when William was only 16 and returned in 1794. Traveling through India, they sketched its scenery, ancient and new architecture, and street life. Determined to surpass Hodges' "Select Views in India", 1785, Thomas and William chose the same views, but drew them more accurately and tinted them more skillfully. Their accuracy was helped in no small measure by their use of camera obscura.

"Oriental Scenery" was partly responsible for the influence of Indian culture on the Western ar-

chitects of the day. The East India Company accepted the dedication of the work and took 30 sets.

William Daniell was also involved in "A Voyage Round Great Britain: 1814 to 1825", together with Richard Ayton. The first edition in eight volumes contains over 300 hand coloured aquatint plates with detailed views of landscapes and cityscapes all over Britain.

Also to be sold is one of the 19th century's greatest lithographic works, "Views of the Holy Land, Egypt and Nubia" by David Roberts. This very rare hand-coloured edition in six volumes was published between 1842 and 1849.

Roberts' early talents for drawing got him involved in scene painting and theatre work at the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh. After visiting most of the countries in Europe, he extended his wanderings to Egypt and Syria in search of picturesque subjects.

The continental section of the sale will include topographical, historical and literary scenes of Switzerland with over 300 engraved views and six double-page maps by Jean Benjamin de Laborde and Baron Zurlauben made between 1780 and 1788.

Comte Chosen-Gouffier executed a "Voyage pittoresque de la Grece" in three volumes in the late 18th century. As an indirect result of the success of the first volume, the author was appointed Ambassador to Constantinople in 1784.

But it necessitated the printing of an amended version of "Discours preliminaire" as the original was extreme in its support for Greek freedom. An ambitious work by numerous eminent artists and engravers such as de Laborde and Gouffier provides a "Description generale et particuliere de la France... et des Provinces". Intended as a set of 12 volumes, only 10 were ever completed.

A head start for the Alexandria library

By Michele Bresson
Special to The Star

PARIS - The international fundraising campaign for the rebuilding of the ancient Alexandria Library in the Egyptian port city has got off to a good start with generous donations from the Arab world. The United Arab Emirates President, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, gave \$20 million and Prince Turki bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia gave \$3 million to the fund launched jointly by Egypt and the Paris-based UNESCO.

The library is a massive project for Egypt to undertake, being equated already with the famous Metro in Cairo, and a long-drawn endeavor to rid Alexandria of its pungence - caused by poor sewage.

But it has received enthusiastic support all around. Welcoming Sheikh Zayed's massive contribution, Culture Minister Farouk Hosni said, "the coming generations will not forget (the) gesture". Tourism Minister Fouad Sultan said the UAE leader's contribution had given a good

head start to the project. President Francois Mitterrand of France offered help with equipment and training of personnel. Queen Sofia of Spain announced a contribution of bibliographical material.

The Egyptian government is donating the site, worth \$60 million, and a conference centre, worth \$20 million, but another \$152 million is needed to get the library back on its feet. Initially there are plans to stock it with 200,000 volumes to match the size of the ancient institution.

Federico Mayor, the UNESCO secretary general, said the project "consists essentially of sharing knowledge: knowledge for its own sake, knowledge for development, knowledge for mutual understanding."

The original library was founded by King Ptolemy I, a scholar in his own right, in the third century BC but named after Alexander, who founded the city in 332 BC. It manuscripts and papyrus scrolls drew scholars from all over the Eastern Mediterranean. The library is believed to have survived nearly 600 years before

falling prey to political upheaval.

The library's establishment in Alexandria was a tribute to the conqueror's literary pursuits. Alexander's scholarly companions included prominent scholars, including Ptolemy, Callisthenes the historian, and Nearchus, who commanded an expedition from the Indus to the Euphrates and wrote a fascinating account of the voyage.

There were plans afoot to 'circumnavigate the coast of Arabia', but these were abandoned when Alexander died suddenly at the age of 33 in 323 BC. During the early part of the expedition, however, explorers managed to reach and name two islands in the Gulf, Icheros or present-day Faylakh in Kuwait and Tallos or present-day Bahrain.

Alexander's death led to the partitioning of his empire, with independent monarchies emerging in Egypt, Syria and Pergamum, in present-day Turkey. Each of these endeavoured to achieve cultural supremacy by establishing libraries in their respective capitals.

Of all these, however, the library in Alexandria was not only the largest, but also associated with a remarkable movement of scientific research. Its collection of manuscripts and an adjoining research institute, the Museon, were chief representatives of the civilisation of that time, and became the foundations for the ancient university of Alexandria.

The project for the revival of the Alexandria Library began in 1986 with a formal Egyptian request to UNESCO. An international symposium followed in March 1988. After an initial promise of \$600,000 from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the contest for design and reconstruction was launched worldwide. It was won in the autumn 1989 by a Norwegian team, Snøhetta Architects-Landskap.

The winning design has been praised for "the strong and symbolic image it carried: a circle inclined towards the sea, partly submerged under the ground, the image of the ancient Egyptian sun that in contemporary terms will illuminate the world and human culture."

The new building, due to open in 1995, promises to offer a new concept of library design and organisation. Cascading levels of platform contained would provide a uniform ambience throughout the various sections. Each level would allow access to its own closed stacks, giving internal flexibility, but it would be possible to add additional platforms.

Shaped like a vertical cylinder cut off at an angle, the building would suggest the rising sun in a tribute to ancient Egypt. The plans make use of the latest architectural technology and modern techniques for the conservation of documents.

The library's computerised services will be linked up with international centres of education and important libraries. The main subjects covered by the library services will include ancient Greece and the Middle East, the meeting of the Greek and Egyptian civilisations, the birth of Coptic Christianity and Islam, with special emphasis on the history of science in the ancient world.

Indian metalwork - Mastery through millennia

By Biswajit Choudhury
Special to The Star

NEW DELHI, India - The striking bronze figure is cast with four arms poised, capturing in a moment the Lord Shiva in his cosmic dance. Its captivating beauty has made it perhaps the best known sculpture of India.

Among the finest conceptions of India's craftsmen, magnificent bronze sculptures of the 10th and 11th centuries show Shiva, the Nataraja or King of Dance, enticed by an inflamed halo, holding a drum in his upper right hand, and the flame, the element of destruction, in his upper left with left foot raised, poised in a continual dance of creation and extinction.

The Indian skill with metals goes back to antiquity. In Delhi an iron pillar over 23 feet high, and inscribed with events of the 4th century AD, was made from a single piece of iron. It is completely free of rust, which bears testimony to the quality of the metal forged.

In the third millennium BC, the urban civilisation of Harappa (now in Pakistan) had already perfected the cire perdue (lost wax) process of casting bronze images using clay moulds and wax. One of the finds is the figure of a naked girl with a necklace, standing with one leg half bent and one arm on her hip, quite unlike anything in the work of other ancient civilisations.

Some of the greatest Indian works of art in metal include the Nataraja, in South India, especially in the Chola Kingdom between the 10th and 12th centuries.

The images were not produced by any one artist but schools which worked from specified canons, which evolved over the centuries to express the secret of life. Because religions were inte-

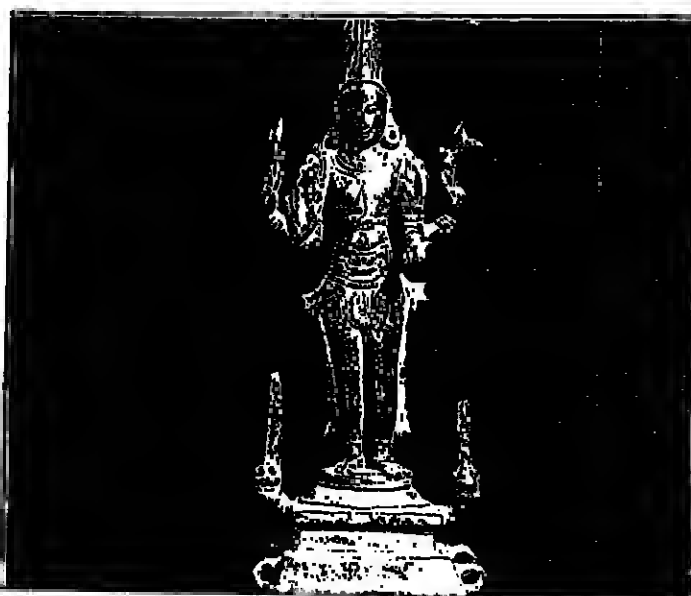
gral to the people's lives, images and ritualistic items are a large part of Indian metalware.

Among the rich variety of lamps, for example, is one which symbolises Agni, the god of fire. Heavily carved lamps, which rise like trees, are found in temples of Southern India. Pedestal lamps of bell metal have pot-shaped receptacles for holding oil and wicks, while the top tapers into a finial shaped like a swan, a peacock or a lion.

North Indian metalware has evolved its own special ornamentation in the Islamic and Mughal styles, seen in the brass and copper lamps, which are embellished with motifs of creepers, leaves, flowers, fish scales and geometric designs. The 'Pahaldar' lamp has a minaret top which features six nihrab-shaped ground glass openings, on an inverted dome base decorated with flower and leaf motifs. Two pillars (pahals) on either side are decorated with diamond- or leaf-shaped patterns.

The Mughal aristocracy from Central Asia patronised the art of inlay, or damascening, where light metal is inlaid on dark, or where wire inlay, or tarkashi or sheet inlay, tainishan, is applied. From Lucknow come exquisite-

Metal crafts are one of the strong points of Indian culture and civilisation. Some of the earliest works, dating back to the 10th century, show high level of craftsmanship.



A South Indian bronze figure of Shiva, circa 13th century

ly damascened pitchers, basins, beetle boxes and hookah bowls, reflecting the refinements of Muslim culture.

In bidri work, pieces of silver wire are embedded on a base of zinc or tin, where pattern has been laid with a chisel. Food in many Muslim homes is served in bidri plates. Designs can be in raised relief called zarbulund, made by repousse or embossing, where patterns are hammered on the underside to appear as raised relief. Work in low relief is called zarshan.

The Moradabad ware of Uttar Pradesh is famous for very intricate engravings of golden decorations on white polished tin. Ingenious metalware of the best Mughal style comes from the Kashmir Valley, where tin is

time.

Enamelling is now used extensively in jewellery. Traditionally craftsmen from Jaipur in Rajasthan have excelled in enamel jewellery in a style similar to the Mughal. A particular technique perfected by Jaipur enamellers is the champleve, which involves hollowing out the metal surface to receive the colours.

Perhaps no other people love to adorn themselves with jewels as much as the Indians. Both painting and sculpture from the ancient times are a testimony to the continuous fascination with jewellery. It was not only for adornment, but also ritual and symbolised passages through the life cycle. For instance, a particular form of necklace called tali or mangalsutra (The link of fortune)

indicated that a Hindu woman was married.

Since the earliest times both men and women have worn jewellery. Gold and gems were naturally for the rich but the poorer strata fashioned equally decorative jewellery in silver, brass and lac, often using coral and semi-precious stones.

North Indian necklaces, hair ornaments, armlets and rings are rich in colour, an effect achieved by juxtaposing stones of contrasting hues and the use of coloured glass beads and pendants.

A jewelled gold collar may be shaped, thick in the middle with a heavy incrustation of stones. The longer necklace may be plain or composed of a number of chains. The strings are often decorated with pendants. The earrings or ear flowers, called kam phul, may be bell-shaped suspended from the ear by a flower or a star shaped jewelled stud. Sometimes a set of rings are worn all around the ear.

Rings are worn both on the fingers and toes. There are beautiful finger rings from Jaipur, both set with gems and enamelled. A toe ring may be linked with an anklet by chains set with pendants.

South India has a variety of gold chains of incredible delicacy, worked in filigree. In others rubies are embedded on to a pendant. The Kokke-Thali gold necklace from Coorg in Karnataka is a thin shaped necklace with a crescent shaped repousse pendant set with cubochron rubies and seed pearls.

Many exquisite designs in a whole variety of metalwork were introduced during the 17th-18th century when the magnificence of the Mughal court attracted both talented craftsmen and rich patrons. Many of the new designs were executed by Hindu craftsmen resulting in a unique synthesis that characterises not only metalware, but the composite culture of India.

ECONOMY

The Star

Jordan's tax system reviewed by the IMF

By Ahmad Shaker
Special to The Star

IN A study prepared by the International Monetary Fund's Technical Assistance Mission entrusted with reviewing the Jordanian tax system, it was found that taxes on income and profits, recognised among the most responsive categories of taxes to movements in GDP, declined in relative importance as a source of tax revenue. A similar decline was registered in revenue from duties and taxes on imports, which account for 50 per cent of total tax revenue. The increase in tax revenue came from taxes on goods and services and mainly from the "consumption tax," which replaced in 1989 a number of excise duties, without significant structural or rate changes.

The study noted that despite the recent tax measures introduced in April 1989, additional tax revenue needs to be mobilised to reduce the budget deficit.

The country's tax ratio seems to be about average for countries within its range of per capita GDP. An additional increase in Jordan's tax effort remains attainable without adverse effects on incentives to invest and employ. The most promising possibilities for increases lie in broadening the aggregate bases of principal duties and taxes through reducing exemptions and exclusions. If exemptions are continued at their current

level, the chances to improve the elasticity of the tax system and to mobilise additional revenue are quite limited. Increasing tax revenue cannot be achieved continuously through further increases in the rates of existing taxes, some of which are already at relatively high levels.

The study characterised the Jordanian tax system by a number of significant features that should influence the direction of its reform. These features include:

(1) The multiplicity of duties and taxes on the same base but with different deductions, exemptions and exclusions.

(2) The proliferation of exemptions from virtually all principal duties and taxes. These exemptions have eroded aggregate tax bases, curtailed revenue yields, and reduced elasticity.

(3) The absence of a general sales tax despite the repeated interest of the policymakers in a value-added tax.

(4) - Significantly low elasticities in taxes including those taxes with progressive rates and bases recognised to be responsive to changes in GDP.

(5) The administration of revenue departments seems to be quite efficient and capable of tackling additional tasks, such as the introduction of a general sales tax.

(6) The heterogeneous category of fees generates a sizable share of total revenue. During the period 1984-88, this share re-

corded a considerable increase with a relatively high buoyancy despite having specific rates.

According to the study, during the 1970s and early 1980s, tax policy was directed at maximising the widely accepted and strongly supported goals of economic policy. These goals included, inter alia: (a) expanding the national production base through encouragement of import substitution industries, this necessitated exemption from virtually all taxes including the "consumption tax"; (b) Encouraging the flow of savings from Jordanians working abroad, and directing this flow into activities related to the social and economic development of the country. To this end, the income tax liability has been limited to incomes realized within Jordan, and therefore, Jordanians earning income abroad remain exempt; and (c) Setting up a capital market and establishing an advanced system to offer financial services.

The study noted that, with the emergence of large budget deficits and recent increases in them, the need for reforming the tax system emerged. Over the last three or four years, the authorities have been contemplating introducing a general sales tax based on the principles of value-added taxation. The purpose was to raise additional revenue and to limit the role of the tariff as a tool for protection.

The study observed that, the need for a review of the tax policy seems to be overdue because of the proliferation of exemptions that have become an entrenched feature of the Jordanian tax system. Rationalisation of exemptions is the most efficient means to broaden aggregate taxable bases, improve the elasticity of the tax system and reduce the need for annual ad hoc measures to raise tax rates or to introduce selective duties and taxes.

Taxation of Jordanians Working Abroad

Labour exporting countries, including Jordan, have frequently expressed interest in taxing their nationals working abroad. However, they have not been able to successfully formulate measures to tax income incurred abroad, especially in countries where there are no income taxes. Taxation of this group raises conflicts between feasible administration, incentives to work abroad, the flow of remittances, and the adequacy of revenue to be collected without undue inconvenience for these taxpayers.

The mission supports the principle of taxing Jordanians abroad to achieve equal treatment between Jordanians having the same income irrespective of its source. However, it prefers deferring the issue until the suggested reforms of the principal taxes are finalized.

Briefs

● The Ministry of Finance and the Audit Bureau will investigate the French and Japanese loans extended to the Telecommunications Corp. and will submit a report on their findings.

● Oman, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Dubai have expressed their readiness to extend financial assistance to Jordan during this year. Last year Kuwait paid \$100 million, Dubai \$30 million, Abu Dhabi \$40 million and Oman \$30 million.

● A revised foreign investment law is under study. The Star has learned. The new law offers additional incentives to foreign investors in Jordan.

● A study will be conducted to define the need of government departments of rented buildings. Recommendations will be made to vacate a number of these buildings or negotiate with owners to lower the cost of rent. Low rent buildings will be sought as alternatives. The purpose of the study is to find ways to control government expenses. Currently more than JD 1.250 million are paid by the government annually in rent.

● Jordan-Iraqi contacts have started to initiate a study to build an oil pipeline between the two countries to transport Iraqi oil to Jordan. Over 70 per cent of Jordan's imports of oil comes from Iraq. More than 50,000 barrels daily are transported by fuel tankers at an annual cost of \$35 million. The cost of building a pipeline reaching the Zerga oil refinery with a capacity of 150 to 250 thousand b/d and a length of 600 kilometres is estimated at \$150 million.

'Banking the Unbankable' 'How can a poor woman like me save?'

By Najma Sadeque

SHER QILA, Pakistan - In this small village in mountainous northern Pakistan, a group of enterprising women are revolutionising the life of the local community - at a cost of one or two rupees (five to ten US cents) a week.

Their story is told in one of 11 reports in "Banking the Unbankable," a new publication of the Panos Institute.

Today is bank deposit day and Nasima has never missed a payment. She belongs to the 45-member Women's Organisation (WO) which draws on women from a cluster of villages and she is one of the poorest members.

With six children and little land, Nasima found it arduous after her husband's death to provide for the family. The land yielded only a meager saleable surplus to buy necessities.

"I reared chickens and sold them and the eggs when I could," she explains. She managed to feed and raise her children.

To expand her trade she needed credit, but there was none available to her. The government had allocated huge amounts of money for the poor, but banks considered the poor a bad risk. Bank demands for eligibility could not be fulfilled.

When a social organiser from the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) first suggested a credit scheme, she and the others were diffident. How could a poor person like her be expected to save? How much could she save, anyway? A few rupees a week at most?

She was told that any amount - even a rupee - would be fine as long as everyone did the same and pooled their savings, and as long as they honestly put in the maximum they could spare without withholding it or withdrawing it soon after.

The social organiser agreed that the women of the mountain villages could not save enough individually to qualify for a loan large enough to run a profitable enterprise. But, she noted, if

they operated a joint enterprise, their pooled savings would suffice.

Equal labour would bring equal profits, she said. That, however, elicited a negative reaction at first. Whoever heard of a smaller investor profiting as much as the biggest investor?

The social organiser pointed out that, in their circumstances, even the largest individual saving could not by itself merit a loan of the needed size. All their savings combined was the key. Nobody had anything to lose. Everyone's savings remained their own, and all the time a nest egg would keep growing.

Nasima painstakingly put together five rupees (25 US cents) for her first deposit. Now she proudly waves her passbook: Since May 1984, she has religiously been depositing this sum every week. In lean times it fell to a rupee or two, but she has seldom missed a week.

In global terms a rupee may seem pitiful. But it would be misleading to view it in those

terms. Such a sum is large in relation to local prices. An egg can be sold for a rupee in summer, twice that much in winter.

Nasima proudly points to the last entry in her passbook: Rs 1,377 (US\$69). She cannot read, but she knows how much is there.

Three years after its formation, Nasima's WO sought and obtained the biggest loan asked for by any WO - Rs 74,000 (US\$3,700). Part was used to build a large poultry shed in the spring of 1988. Some 150 layers and 1,000 broiler chicks at Rs6 (30 US cents) each were brought all the way from Rawalpindi, over 600 miles (960 kilometres) by road.

The chickens survived but differences unexpectedly ignited over how things were to be managed. Quarrels meant the chicks were neglected and 700 died.

That sobered them. A month later, they obtained 800 more from nearby Gilgit town. But they had not reckoned on the heat in July and August. In a

closed shed without cooling, half the chickens died.

Undaunted, they bought another 900 chickens. In the winter, because of the cold, they bought layers only since they had to be kept inside.

The third flock survived. And the WO prospered. "We've been selling chickens at Rs30 to Rs32 (US\$1.50-1.60) per kilo during the winter," says WO chairman, an Jahan. "In summer, the price goes down but not by more than Rs 5 to Rs 7 (25-35 US cents)."

As the profits flowed in, the women have been emboldened to seek an even bigger loan - to buy a pickup truck. "So we can control marketing," Jahan explains. "Now we sell to middlemen who make most of the profit. We can't take the produce ourselves to Gilgit because we're not equipped for it. And, if we pickups is not feasible. But if we get our own pickup, we can take produce even further off the money is good enough."

PANOS.

29 MARCH 1990

JEA sells its skills abroad

Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

THIRTEEN MAURITANIAN technicians arrived in Jordan this week for a special one year training programme at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Electrical Training Centre. When they finish their training programme the Mauritanian technicians will return home to run electrical networks for which JEA engineers provided financial and technical feasibility studies and are now preparing technical specifications and tender documents.

The JEA-Mauritanian co-operation is an early success story in efforts by JEA International (JEA) the JEA consulting unit to capitalize on skills and experience developed during Jordan's electrification projects of the past twenty years.

JEA manager Dr Ahmad Hiyasat says the unit was established in late 1988 with the particular aim of marketing JEA expertise both inside Jordan and abroad. Since the unit has enjoyed steady success in the area of consulting services and the provision of Jordanian experts, Co-operation agreements have been signed with leading international power companies includ-

ing Electricite de France, ESB of Ireland, Kepco of South Korea, BEI of the UK and Stanley consultants of the US and jobs have been won in Mauritania and North Yemen.

In Yemen JEA have been awarded a contract for consultancy services for the initial design and preparation of technical specifications and tender documents for the distribution project at Al Rahedah - and Al Turbah. In co-operation with Swedpower it has been awarded the consultancy services for supervising the Fourth Power Project. Work is expected to last for three years on the project which includes the construction of distribution networks in different areas and a number of diesel power stations.

Two Jordanian experts are already working with the Yemen General Electricity Corp. (YGEC) to establish a computer

unit and to develop computer applications. JEA has also prepared a financial, administrative and technical study to develop the potentials of the YGEC.

JEA has also been submitted to North and south Yemen for consultancy services for the construction of an electricity link between the two states. In Mauritania JBAI and Luxembourg's Societe Generale pour L'Industrie (SGI) have completed the financial and technical feasibility study for a project for the electrification of the thirteen towns. The study will be submitted to Mauritania's Societe Nationale d'Economie & d'Electricite (Sonelco). JEA is working alone on the preparation of technical specifications and tender documents for the project.

It will follow this up with a study on the impact of the project on Sonelco's technical, financial and administrative situa-

tion and will also make recommendations for the optimal operation and management of the project.

A JEA distribution engineer is now working with Sonelco in Mauritania as a supervisor of distribution projects, three JEA engineers are now working for Saudi Consolidated Electricity Company (SCECO) West and will be joined by a fourth while another is due to be seconded to SCECO East.

JEA staff have also found new opportunities through the establishment of Bailly Controls Jordan, a joint venture between Bailly Controls USA and the JEA, which provides specialist staff in the fields of instrumentation and control.

Dr Hiyasat says prospects for the employment of Jordanian engineers throughout the Arab region are good particularly for those who have worked with JEA which has developed a sound reputation for efficiency.

He says JEA will need a production line to train staff quickly enough to keep up with expanding job opportunities. He would like to see more engineers being hired through JEA rather than just taking jobs independently so that their skills are not lost permanently to Jordan.



JEA engineers at work

RENT Saudi Real Estate

Furnished & unfurnished apartments & villas for rent in West Amman area.

CALL: SOHA Rental Dept. 687821/22

Deposit Rates

Euro-deposit rates:

	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mn.	8.1/4	7.11/16	15.11/16	7.53	8.1/16
2 mo.	8.1/4	7.13/16	15.1/8	7.50	9.1/16
3 mo.	8.5/16	8.1/16	15.3/16	7.50	9.1/16
6 mo.	8.9/16	8.5/8	15.5/16	7.68	9.
1 year	8.13/16	8.13/16	15.7/16	7.70	9.

Interbank rates (Jordan):

Saving accounts 7%. Call accounts 8%, 1 week 8.325%, 1 month 8.825%, 2 months 9.0%, 3 months 9.25%, 1 year 9.5%. Lending rate (AAA) 12%.

Dollar:	DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN	FFR
LAST 1.7090/00	1.5210/17	1.6178/88	156.65/70	1.1762/67	5.7470/00	

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

Gold & Silver

	Gold	JD
1kg	8,650,000	
21 ct	7,500	
18 ct	6,500	
Eng. pound	62,500	
8g	54,250	
Rashad:	9,500	
7g		
24ct (swiss)		
Silver		
1 kg	160,000	

Money Matters

Average exchange rates on in Jls

Suesday 25/3/1990

	Buy	Sell
US\$	671.0	675.0
£	1074.6	1081.0
DM	392.0	394.4
SFR	441.9	444.6
FRF	116.3	117.0
YEN	435.0	437.6
(100)		
DFL	348.2	350.3
SKR	109.6	110.3
LIT	53.3	53.6
(100)		
BLF	191.2	192.3
(10)		

Consumer Watch

Dressing for Work

THERE is no doubt that a large number of Jordanians have put behind the habit of dressing for others' taste. This new positive trend is observed among those who work in banks, insurance companies, large private sector firms, hotels, general managers' secretarial offices, public relations and industrial/commercial service fields. Yet, the remaining number of those Jordanians who are still unsure whether to maintain this habit or not is larger than expected. The Star interviewed a number of employees who fit a lower-middle income category and came out with the following results about their attitudes:

- * Clothing indicates status.
- * It is difficult to understand the sudden change in clothing style.

* In their view clothing styles could hide any shortages they may have in other areas such as general knowledge, capabilities and education.

* Sometimes dressing over dressing serves to protect them from any inferiorities they may have; psychological or physical.

Dressing for work should be understood as a need to wear practical things which make you feel, and actually indicate, that you are a real working man or woman.

The new start in Jordan is to save for your future and improve your capabilities. Wearing fancy dress does not do the job which you were able to do two years ago. Now there are more to being socially accepted than wearing a fancy dress. Besides saving money and getting the best quality material is the new rule in today's game.

Contracts & Contracts

- Ministry of Supply, 12/90, 2000 tons fresh/chilled veal meat, JD 25, 4/4/1990.
- Royal Jordanian, 43/90, fuel station, JD 30, 7/4/90.
- Mu'tah University, F6/90, steel, JD 3; F7/90, wood, JD 4, 4/4/1990.
- Mu'tah University, 8/90, tires with tubes, JD 3, 4/4/1990.
- Ministry of Supply, 17/90, 26,000 tons of rice, JD 25, 5/4/1990.
- Ministry of Supply, 61/90, 100,000 tons of wheat JD 25, 10/4/1990.
- Urban Development Department, 12/w2/90, North Russell Housing Project 2B, JD 200, 15/4/1990.
- Jordan Electric Power Co., reinforcement and extension of medium voltage distribution network in Greater Amman and Zerga areas, European Investment Bank Loan, JD 50 each (4 tender sets), 6/6/1990.
- Armed Forces, sale of arms and ammunitions, JD 5, 10/4/1990, head of sales committee/Purchases Directorate.
- Military Consumer Corp, 44/90, sheets and blankets, 1/4/1990; 45/90, butter, 4/4/1990; 46/90, baking powder and vanilla, 7/4/1990; 47/90, vacuum cleaners, 17/4/1990; 48/90, plastic chopping boards, 21/4/1990; 49/90, hair combs, 23/4/1990; 50/90, hand and face cream 23/4/1990, JD 5 each.
- Arab Potash Co., 19/90, carbon steel pipes and pipe fittings, JD 10, 15/4/1990; 20/90, carbon steel, monel, uranium and ferrous fillings, JD 100, 15/4/1990; 21/90, 8" galvanized steel pipes and pipe fittings, JD 25, 17/4/1990; 22/90, balancing machine, JD 15, 18/4/1990.
- Civil Consumer Corp, 90/90, baby food powder, 100,000-150,000 containers, 91/90, soup cubes, 6,000-8,000 packs, 92/90, soup packets, 150,000-170,000 packets, 93/90 macre in sauce, 94/90 white beans in salt and water, 60,000-80,000 cans, 95/90 white beans in sauce, 60,000-80,000 cans, 7/4/1990.

This service is free of charge. To publish your tenders in this corner please tear-off this box (do not photocopy) and send with tender, auction, public sale, garage sale, bazaar sale, etc. details to: Economy Editor, On-Line, The Star, P.O. Box 9313, Amman-Jordan.

Industrial Estates

Al-khomaseyeh Weaving & Zipper Mfg. Co. Ltd.

Location: Amman Industrial Estate / Sahab
Invested Capital: JD 1 million
No. of Workers: 150 workers
Starting Production date: Beginning of 1989
Type of production:
- Weaving textiles with a yearly production of 300,000 yards and exporting about 40% to Iraq and Egypt.
- Thread dyeing with a yearly production of 200 tons covering the needs of the local market.
- Zippers, with a yearly production of 30 million yards, and exporting 70% to Iraq.
P.O. Box: (84)
Amman Industrial Estate
Tel: 7222922/3

The Middle East Electrical Industries Ltd.

Location: Amman Industrial Estate/Sahab
International License: Working under license from ACMA
Joint Venture: 30% Singaporean
Production starting date: End of 1989
Invested Capital: JD 1.5 million
No. of Workers: 70 workers
Type of Production:
Production capacity is about 50,000 refrigerators but today is only produces about 20,000 refrigerators of different alizes. A large number of these is exported in ACC Countries. The company's products compete with the imported ones in terms of quality, specifications and price.
P.O. Box: 87
Amman Industrial Estate
Tel: 722610

Shows & Exhibitions

SPE Oil Show

THE SOCIETY OF Petroleum Engineers (SPE) is holding its seventh SPB Middle East Oil Show and Conference in March of 1991. The show will be held at the New Exhibition Center in Bahrain between March 2-5, 1991.
Contact: Stephen Key
Middle East Oil Show
Exhibition Center-Bahrain
P.O. Box 20200 Manama, Bahrain
Tel: 250003, Tlx: 9103, Fax: 242381
Coordinators/agents of national group participant are located in Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Singapore, UK, USA, Norway and Australia.

New International banking rules affect Gulf banks, particularly in Bahrain

BAHRAIN IS getting the cold shoulder from the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and it just doesn't add up. The banking hub of the oil boom years is on the upswing after the recession years of the mid-1980s, and has visions of becoming a major financial centre for the 1990s and beyond.

But even as the Gulf island begins to bring its banking rules in line with those established in the 1983 Basic accord, the OECD has determined that all non-OECD countries will be classified as high credit risks. This large-scale snub affects all the Gulf nations except Saudi Arabia which is singled out because of its contributions to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

According to the 11 July 1988 accord, by the end of 1992, all supervised banks must cover 8 per cent of the value of loans issued to high-risk borrowers through either increased provisions or capital infusions. The requirement is being phased in throughout the OECD, and by the end of this year, banks are responsible for 7.25 per cent.

But while Bahrain's banking industry and economy are stabilising and falling in line with the Basic-based Bank for International Settlements, the other half of the equation is not holding up. The high-risk rating by the

OECD translates to high borrowing costs for Bahrain and the other Gulf countries on the international market. As Bahrain regains its development momentum and looks for financing to revive industrial projects that were shelved during leaner years, these high financing costs mean prices that Bahrain can ill-afford.

Concerned Arab neighbours are urging talks to re-classify the Gulf states. They contend that it is unfair that OECD-member Turkey is classified low-risk despite its floundering economy, while oil-rich, non-OECD countries - like Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates - are branded as high credit risks.

Sheik Ibrahim Khalifa Al Khalifa, Deputy Governor of the Bahrain Monetary Authority (BMA), asserts that the OECD ruling just "does not reflect reality".

The Basic Committee on Banking Regulations and Supervisory Practices, a board including supervisory authorities from 12 major industrial countries, devised the uniform capital framework for all supervised banking institutions. The universalisation of capital adequacy requirements, according to the planners' objectives, will minimise at least one source of competitive inequality among international banking institutions.

Textile quotas cost developing countries billions every year

AMMAN (Star) - Within the next five years, Jordan will reportedly accommodate a large number of industries specialising in garments and textiles. As an import replacement and export industry, garment and textile manufacturing is looked at as of a promising small-scale and medium-scale business sector. Jordanian business interests might be well achieved if the country's new generation of manufacturers launch opportunities for Jordanian-foreign joint ventures in the small-and-medium-scale garment and textile manufacturing industry.

The Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA), a framework for "voluntary export restraints" that restrict the volume of most developing-country textile products into North America and Western Europe, is costing developing countries billions of dollars every year and must be dismantled, according to a new book published by the World Bank.

The book, "Textiles Trade and the Developing Countries: Eliminating the Multi-Fibre Arrangement in the 1990s," states that developing countries would gain

about \$8 billion a year if the MFA were dismantled. The MFA was introduced in 1974 as a temporary arrangement to allow textile firms in the industrial countries to adjust to rapidly increasing exports from developing nations.

According to the book, developing countries are insisting that the MFA be phased out as soon as possible. Many governments now realise that a successful conclusion to the current Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade may not be reached without an agreement to end the MFA.

The book also notes that not only is the MFA hurting textile exporters through trade restrictions, it also discourages investment in parts of the economy already covered by quotas and in sectors that could face quotas in the future. And because the MFA prevents imports of less expensive textile from developing countries, consumers in the industrial nations are currently being overcharged billions of dollars each year for clothing, fabric and other goods.

More importantly, the standards will encourage all banks to maintain stronger capital positions.

Under the new system, capital adequacy of a particular bank is determined with respect to its unique risk profile. The total risk of a bank's assets is computed by assessing a combination of balance sheet and off-balance sheet exposures, and weighting them according to uniform standards.

Banks and bank holding companies will be required to hold priority capital equal to 8 per cent of their risk-weighted assets. According to the US Federal Reserve, that means institutions must maintain a core of at least 4 per cent of Tier 1 capital, which includes common stock holders equity, retained earnings, and perpetual preferred stock, to name a few. Tier 2 capital can fill in the rest of the requirement, and this includes - among others - limited-life preferred stock, subordinated debt and a certain portion of loan loss reserves. Banks, then, will have

a greater incentive to hold more liquid or low-risk assets.

In terms of off-balance sheet items, the total credit risk to the institution is the basis for assigning a weight. Off-balance sheet exposure including the prevailing interest rate, liquidity, funding risks and asset quality problems, are not included in the ratio, but do play a part in determining a bank's total capital adequacy.

For now, no minimum capital base has been set for banking organisations. Instead, the accord stipulates a "target ratio" for total capital to risk-weighted assets of 7.25 per cent, with Tier 1 capital accounting for at least half. This ratio should be met by all supervised banks by the end of this year.

The BMA sees the value of uniform capital adequacy requirements for international banks. Bahrain's banks understand what it is like to be saddled with problem loans, having recently been tangled up in bad Latin American loans to the tune of approximately \$4 billion. To

manage the crisis, banks either took tremendous losses, increased their provisions (in the case of Arab Banking Corp. (ABC), to as high as 22.5 per cent) or watched their paid-up capital diminish.

The BMA dealt with the embarrassing amount of non-performing loans by issuing, in February 1988, a board point system for banks to assess credit risk. But the Basic accord offers a more comprehensive guide.

Currently, with the Latin American debt crisis and the recession behind them, Bahrain banks are regaining strength and profitability. Led by banking giants ABC and Gulf International Bank (GIB), Bahrain now boasts 58 offshore banking units (OBUs) with total assets of around \$65.3 billion. These OBUs survived the critical years by merging smaller banks, diversifying operations and cutting costs. By the end of 1989, OBUs had increased profits by 42.5 per cent over the year before.

MidEast Report



"AMERICA'S #1 JOURNAL ON U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS"

Learn the facts about the Palestinian uprising in the Occupied Territories and U.S. policy options in the Middle East by reading *American Arab Affairs*, the quarterly journal from the American-Arab Affairs Council. Now in its seventh year, *American Arab Affairs* presents insightful analysis and thought-provoking interviews with leading politicians, scholars and business leaders to answer your questions about American foreign policy, the peace process, U.S.-Arab economic relations and much more.

"For those of us in Congress who are expected to look past the news accounts and obtain an insight into the thinking and objectives of the players in the Middle East, it is extremely helpful to have access to *American Arab Affairs*. It is a well-written journal with articles and interviews that cut through the rhetoric."

The Hon. Howard C. Nielson
U.S. Representative (UT)

"*American Arab Affairs* is helping to acquaint the American nation with the shared ideals and common interests that America has with the Arab world. In so doing, it is making a positive contribution to a healthier state of relations between our two peoples."

His Majesty King Hussein
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

"*American Arab Affairs* promotes understanding of U.S.-Arab relations, while giving a fair and unbiased interpretation of current events that affect those relations."

The Hon. Jimmy Carter
Former President of the United States

American-Arab Affairs Council
1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 812, Washington, D.C. 20036

Annual subscription \$25.00
Outside the United States \$42.00

☐ Payment enclosed. My subscription begins upon receipt of payment.

Postage and handling included.

Your Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State or Country _____ Zip _____

Our Say

The press is not a target

THE CURRENT row between the Lower House of Parliament and the press could become a serious blow to the democratic process. It should not be allowed to continue any further. For the democratic process in Jordan to function properly, freedom of the press must remain sacred and the relation between the press and the Parliament should be based on mutual respect.

The wave of anger and criticism shown by some deputies over the publication by newspapers of the proceedings of the secret session of the House held to debate corruption in the country is unjustified. The press has its own machinery which works to provide its readers with news of public interest and concern because this is what is expected of it. If some deputies leaked the details of the secret session to the press, then the fault lies inside the Lower House and has nothing to do with the press performing its duty.

The people are entitled to know the issues that affect them on a wide scale. Corruption falls under this category. We are living in an age of openness and freedom. Let us not spoil it by accusations and counter-accusations. Let us concern ourselves instead with the essence of the democratic process.

Unfortunately some deputies have not seen the issue in this light and have gone to the extent of accusing newspapers of corruption. Accordingly the press has decided to boycott Lower House activities until the issue is resolved. It is a pity that in this age of democracy the Jordanian press is still looked upon as a suspect and not as a full partner in the democratic process in Jordan.

The Peres Factor

AS WAS expected the political stagnation in Israel has overcome all attempts to form a new Israeli government under Labour Party leader Mr Shimon Peres. The tie in votes accorded to each of the two major parties will probably push Mr Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir into raising the white flag and opening bilateral negotiations to re-group a coalition government, or take their chances and call for general elections, in which both stand to lose as much as gain.

The Palestinian Intifada has used this political stalemate in Israel to increase pressures on the occupying authorities and to remind the Israeli public of the real issues at hand. Still both Palestinians and Israelis are drifting to a point of terrible collision if no political settlement is given a decent chance of bringing about an honourable settlement to the conflict.

The Peres factor, according to some Arabs, may offer peace this chance. This could be true since Mr Peres has committed himself to negotiating with the Palestinian and has accepted the principle of land for peace. But Israel is divided and political settlements of the sort we dream of require a strong statesman, behind whom the nation can rally.

If Mr Peres fails to acquire the single vote which will enable him to break the tie and form a government within the coming three to four weeks, then the choice will have to be taken by the Israeli people. The Palestinian Intifada will have to address the Israelis and make sure that peace will be the issue of the general elections, because it too will be campaigning along with Israel's leaders.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An advice to tourists

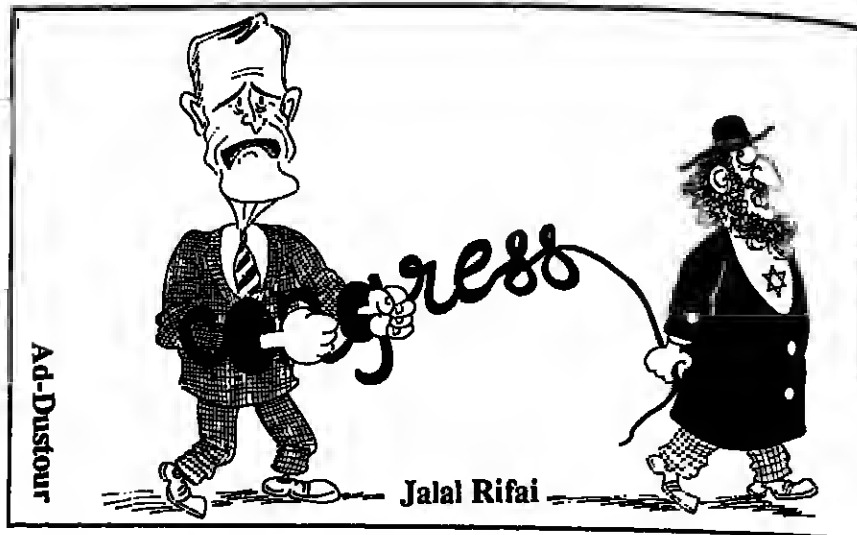
To the Editor:
Please allow me to use the pages of your newspaper to pass an advice, or rather a warning, to anybody who wants to spend a day-out-of-doors in the coming pleasant month of April.

- Do not even think of going to the Dead Sea, Jordan's unique natural attraction-and for more than one reason:
- First, the area of the beach utilised by the Dead Sea Resthouse is so small it is crowded beyond tolerance.

Second, access to sweat water is quite difficult and the number of showers provided by the Resthouse is hardly enough to meet 10 per cent of the demand.

And thirdly, the empty cans, glasses and cigarette packets that litter the beach kill any interest in you to spend more than 20 minutes in the area. In short, the place is dirty and neglected and I don't think anybody would like to waste his holiday in such surroundings.

Fadi Husseln, Amman.



Bush versus Jewish groups - the rift widens

THE FOLLOWING article by Gerald F. Selb and Robert S. Greenberger headlined "Rift between Bush, some US Jewish leaders is widening amid search for Middle East Peace" appeared in The Wall Street Journal of 20 March.

WASHINGTON - Bad blood is flowing between the Bush Administration and some American Jewish leaders, and officials on both sides fear the consequences could be lasting.

Some Jewish leaders are accusing President Bush and his aides of causing the downfall of Israel's coalition government by exerting what they contend was unwelcome pressure on Israel - principally on the sensitive issue of East Jerusalem. The Jewish displeasure is being expressed with unusual candor, most notably by Thomas Dine, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the pro-Israel lobby.

Bush administration officials are privately fuming over the attacks. They assert that the turmoil in Israel doesn't arise from any steps taken in the US but from schisms inside Israel so deep that the government there can't support its own plans for making peace with Palestinians.

Moreover, US officials maintain that Jewish leaders concerned about the fall of the Israeli government led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir are out of touch with the views of many US Jews who, they believe, welcome the change as a chance to break the peace logjam.

But strains persist, Jewish leaders, who were accustomed to winning approval for their positions from President Reagan, now are leery.

Though neither Jewish leaders nor US administration aides will discuss such concerns publicly, Mr Bush's background as a former Texas oil man raises worries among some Jewish leaders that he is especially sensitive to the views of Arab oil producers.

There are signs that US public support for pro-Israel policies is slipping. A new Wall Street Journal/NBC news poll indicates that the public considers West Germany or Japan to be more of a friend to the US than Israel. And by a 63 per cent to 24 per cent margin, those polled supported a proposal by Sen. Robert Dole to trim foreign aid to Israel and other aid recipients to help Eastern Europe's new democracies.

The current tension arises from a series of manoeuvres and statements related to Israel's settlement of Soviet emigres and the nation's proposal to open talks with Palestinians over elections in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

More recently, Mr Baker raised the hackles of Mr Dine and other Jewish leaders by linking the administration's support for a programme to help house thousands of Soviet Jews immigrating to Israel to a commitment from Israel that it won't expand or build new settlements on the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

But what finally triggered a Jewish outcry was Mr Bush's declaration three weeks ago that the US opposes new Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem. Technically, Mr Bush didn't change US policy because Washington always has considered East Jerusalem, captured by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, to be occupied territory whose status should be determined by negotiations. But in practice, the US has quietly accepted Israeli building activity there, and US presidents have previously put East Jerusalem in the same category as the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr Bush's statement sent shock waves through the US Jewish community. "There is no issue on which there is more unanimity in the Jewish community than the issue of Jerusalem," says Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, which represents 43 Jewish groups.

Shortly after Mr Bush's remark, AIPAC's Mr Dine in a speech accused the administration of "mistakes and missteps" and urged Jews to "remember that Israeli friends in this city reside on Capitol Hill." That attack angered administration aides. They contend that Mr Shamir himself set in motion the events that led to Mr Bush's statement about settlements by proclaiming that a "Big Israel" will be needed to handle the flood of Soviet emigres - a remark suggesting Israel would build new settlements and cement its hold on occupied territories.

And, administration officials add, Mr Bush's specific reference to East Jerusalem was prompted by Mr Shamir's contention that only a tiny percentage of Soviet emigres settle in Israeli-occupied territories - a contention US officials consider misleading because it ignores emigres who settle in East Jerusalem.

Another point of tension may be approaching: The Bush administration soon must send Congress reports on whether the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is living up to its commitments to eschew terrorism and recognise Israel's right to exist.

In the current atmosphere, such administration decisions will be watched closely. "The Jewish community is deeply concerned," says Mr Hoenlein. "People are unsatisfied about what has been said up until now."

Issues in human resources planning

By Nadia Takriti Kamal

HUMAN RESOURCES are the number one wealth of Jordan which is a country not highly endowed with natural resources while its economy has a small productive base. It highly depends on imports from food to clothing to other consumer goods.

Jordan is also unique in having up to 40 per cent of its manpower working in neighbouring Gulf states, while up to 25 per cent of the local labour force are foreign guest workers. Population increase is rapid as a function of high fertility and low mortality rates. Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force.

Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Planning for employment highlights many issues. This article attempts to expose some of them:

(1) Intermediate and short-term plans work to achieve various goals, targets and policies. The government is trying to increase demand for labour and to ensure optimal utilisation of human resources within the framework of the overall development process. We have to find the appropriate choice of technology that will generate sufficient employment opportunities and keep pace with the rate of growth of the labour force. Thus planners will examine and analyse development policies in terms of their impact on employment generation.

(2) Each sector's expected share of job creation must be anticipated. The public sector in Jordan is saturated and emphasis will shift to the private sector. Agriculture and industry, particularly small businesses, can welcome increasing numbers of employees. The informal sector deserves more careful examination as well.

(3) Amman-Zarqa has the highest share of employment. Balqa and Irbid come second. But the southern region has only 10 per cent of the labour force in Jordan. It is hoped that more employment opportunities will be created there. Rural areas in each region of the Kingdom are becoming deprived of human resources because of migration to cities. A reverse trend to establish equilibrium; prevent urban decline has to begin. Incentives have to be provided to encourage this shift. New establishments and work opportunities can be created with increasing grassroots efforts and self-reliance which are important at this time of economic crises.

(4) Part of the unemployment problem in Jordan is structural. We have many job-seekers who cannot fit in the labour market due to a mismatch between supply and demand. This situation can be faced by increasing and diversifying our training programmes on one hand, and educating our graduates and new entrants to adapt to market demand on the other hand. Behavioural reasons for unemployment are not significant, yet attitudes and social norms must change to respect work in its own value.

(5) The fact that Jordan has been a manpower exporter for neighbouring countries and expects to continue in this direction as the economy of the Gulf states is recovering, requires that we focus on work areas of relative advantage.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

View Point

by Yacoub Jaber

Namibia's independence

LAST WEEK, the sun of freedom shone over Africa's last colony after 75 years of South African white-ruled rule. Namibia, amidst wide-spread celebrations attended by world figures, became independent and sovereign state.

The independence of Namibia is attributed first and above all to the struggle of the people to get rid of South Africa's yoke of colonialism. The struggle for independence had been waged by South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO). But other factors which helped to expedite the process of independence need to be taken into consideration.

Few years ago, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 435 which calls on South Africa to end its dominance of Namibia. Pretoria stalled and placed every possible obstacle to block the implementation of the resolution and stop Namibia's march towards freedom. It was obvious that South Africa's white minority was not willing to yield to the will of the international community and was determined to maintain the colonialism of the African territory.

It was when the United States stepped in and used its leverage with South Africa that the latter began to change its attitude. The United States, worried about the presence of Cuban troops in neighbouring Angola, backed a negotiated agreement under which Cuban troops would withdraw from Angola in return for a South African troops pull-out from Namibia.

The US intervention also allowed the United Nations to play a major role in the events which followed and finally led to Namibia's independence. Elections were held in Namibia under UN supervision. For the first time in so many years, the world organisation has been enabled to carry out a mission that completely fits in with its very nature as an international peace-keeping body having the right to put into effect its own resolutions.

Namibia's example can and should be applied to the Arab territories occupied by Israel. The Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat repeatedly cited Namibia as such an example and called for holding the proposed elections in the occupied territories under UN supervision. But the United States and Israel ignored this sensible demand.

But the sun of Independence will shine over Palestine as it shone over Namibia. The people of Palestine will attain self-determination and those who try to obstruct this inevitability will be overrun by the tide of history.



Educational programmes should be adapted to meet market demand.

Current demand is mainly on professionals, highly trained and experienced people. Absorption of new labour force entrants in the Gulf economies is limited and already forcing lower wages and decreasing benefits in a very competitive situation.

(6) Policies for labour remittances utilisation must be carefully studied. Such remittances exceed Arab and foreign development aid. They can help the economic recovery of the country.

(7) Foreign labour market in Jordan is characterised by lower wages, longer working hours, limited social security benefits and obedience to employers. Control and reduction of foreign labour is a sensitive issue politically. It is difficult for the Ministry of Labour to enforce work permits policies. A minimum equal wage policy for both foreign and local workers helps cover the gap. Condensed short training sessions can prepare nationals to replace foreigners in certain sectors gradually.

(8) Unemployment is high among the poor. Absolute poverty line is at an income of JD 89 per family. Destitute poverty is at a JD 40 monthly income per family. About 19 per cent of the population in Jordan is under the absolute poverty line. Unemployment coupled with low educational status create a self-perpetuating vicious circle. Charitable funds for the poor cover only 12 per cent of the poverty gaps.

The newly-created Development and Employment Fund must seriously focus on creating jobs aimed at this target group, preferably without intermediary guardian organisations.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

Unemployment is estimated at 15 to 20 per cent of the labour force. Thus human resource planning is a very difficult task but it is a must. National planning has to account for human resource development in education, training, health, social services and most importantly employment.

The Star

Chairman
Mahmoud El-Sherif
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Osama El-Sherif
Editor
Ayman Al-Safadi
Business Manager
Hamdan Al-Haj

An independent political, economic and cultural weekly, published every Thursday in Amman in co-operation with Media Services International (Info-Media).
Editorial & Advertising: Fax & Telephone 648298, P.O. Box 9513, Amman - Jordan.
Typesetting, layout and processing done exclusively on Apple Macintosh system using Desk top-publishing software.

A Rand Report

Why a Palestinian state is inevitable?

By Omar M. Kader

THE INTIFADA has transformed the Palestinians from a docile population to an unstoppable political movement that will inexorably lead to a Palestinian state. These are among the conclusions of a Rand Corporation report, "The West Bank of Israel: Point of No Return?", sponsored by the office of the US Secretary of Defense. The author, Graham C. Fuller, a former senior CIA official, states in unequivocal language that the Intifada and subsequent political events "have now made the emergence of a Palestinian state on the West Bank inevitable."

Fuller draws a clear and convincing political map of conditions and likely scenarios facing the Palestinians, Israelis, and Jordanians, with the implications of each for the United States. The report is the result of two trips to the occupied territories, the first sponsored by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a pro-Israeli think tank.

The Palestinians have taken control of their own fate, the report says, by creating a "new spirit among West Bank Palestinians that cannot be undone - a sense that they have taken their destiny into their own hands and have shown that they are capable of long, sustained resistance."

It would be a mistake to interpret this report as advocating an independent Palestinian state or, for that matter, promoting any specific policy. Any reader who has traveled to the West Bank or Gaza in the last year, however, will generally agree with the author's analysis.

The Palestinians

The "psychological reversal" is the major new element created by the Intifada. Fuller writes, and he points out that Israel is now an obstacle to peace, while the Palestinians have taken the "high ground."

The Palestinians now feel they have time on their side. Whereas Israel used to proclaim confidently that it was "creating facts" on the West Bank with settlements, the West Bankers are now "creating facts" with the de facto closure of the area and the creation of new Palestinian civil institutions. West Bankers can enter Israel with relative freedom, while Israelis cannot enter the West Bank. Eschewing their former rejectionist politics, Palestinian leaders now say that they want contact with Israelis, and they seek negotiations over the future of their state.

Further, the Palestinians have succeeded in reversing the role of violence and force by taking the initiative of demanding their human rights and independence, while forcing the Israelis to respond with a military show of strength, all the while under the watchful eye of the media.

Moves to consolidate a grip on Palestinian institutions is leading some, including Fuller, to conclude that schisms have developed among the Palestinians. Fuller lists five areas of tension between "external and internal" leadership: 1) distance between the PLO and those on the scene,

2) a generation gap, 3) tensions between youths and old elites on the West Bank, 4) a split between left and right wings in the occupied territories and 5) the Islamic movement which is reported to be under the influence of Iran, not the PLO.

These and other suggestions that tensions exist between the PLO and leadership in the occupied territories may be exaggerated. Fuller does acknowledge the dominance of the PLO in the process: "Most Palestinians now ritualistically say 'we are the PLO.' In one sense, this statement of allegiance alleviates the old dilemma of Israelis trying to find Palestinians to talk to who are not the PLO. Now there are almost none."

Fuller pays considerable attention to the new spirit of those under occupation:

"The Intifada has not only changed the way the West Bank Palestinians think about themselves, it has also changed the way they think about the PLO, which had almost nothing to do with the outbreak of the Intifada or its initial successes. On the contrary, it is the uprising that has had a major impact on the PLO leadership, forcing it to develop new political flexibility. The Intifada is the direct cause of the major new political moves by Arafat, including the declaration of a Palestinian state, the planned establishment of a Palestinian government in exile, recognition of Israel's right to exist through acceptance of United Nations resolutions 242 and 338, and the renunciation of terrorism."

It can be argued instead that the Intifada accelerated events, but did not change the direction the PLO has been pursuing for more than 10 years, a negotiated two-state solution. The PLO has sought a dialogue with the US, negotiations with Israel and offered land for peace for some time, without results. A case can be made that the Intifada forced Palestinian demands onto the front pages, compelling American and Israeli policy makers to respond to issues they had largely ignored. Every element of the Palestine National Council's 1988 peace proposal was drawn from previous PLO offers.

Fuller's report addresses the role of the PLO in concrete terms. "The Israeli-American search for alternative leadership to represent the Palestinians is to all intents and purposes dead..." The Intifada has almost decisively eliminated those hopes for an alternative vehicle designed to block Palestinian independence. While the West Bank political community has its tensions with the external PLO leadership, it



The Intifada: First step to Palestinian statehood

has not sought to separate itself from the leadership as long as the leadership is responsive to its needs.

The Israelis

If Israel decides to be a good neighbour to a future Palestinian state, it must change existing policy, Fuller explains. "The process of 'getting there' is critical, for it will characterise the relationship between the Jewish and Palestinian states." The process could be voluntary, entailing co-operation between the two states. Or, if the new Palestinian state comes into being with force and violence, it will "encourage further attempts to use force against the Israeli state."

If the Intifada caught the PLO and the Palestinians by surprise, it devastated the Israelis. After 40 years of playing the role of underdog, projecting the image of a beleaguered population in a sea of hostility, the Israelis found themselves fighting two losing battles. The first involved the failed attempt to end the Intifada and the second was a losing battle for a positive public image. For the first time in its history, Israel faces the prospect of being viewed as a fascist bully state, oppressing its minority citizens.

The report states that to Israelis, a Palestinian state is "becoming less of a psychological outrage than it has been in years past." Early Zionist leaders accepted a two-state solution, but Israelis have not discussed or studied its implications for them. Now that the idea of two states is not unthinkable, and the Intifada has become unstoppable, Israelis will be forced to make tough decisions regarding peace.

Israel's concerns, states the report, are centered on security and terrorism. As peace talks become a reality, Fuller expects more terrorism directed at Israel and the Palestinians from rejectionists on each side.

While the report discusses differences between various Palestinians, they are mild compared to the ideological Grand Canyon that separates Israel's political factions. Hard-line military and political leaders are divided on how to handle the Intifada. Some want it put down violently, while others desire a negotiated settlement. "Strikingly," the report states, "two of the

most outspoken figures in Israel who believe that a Palestinian state is ultimately in the cards - and workable - are the two former chiefs of Israeli military intelligence, General Aharon Yariv and General Yoishafat Harkabi.

and Israel and, secondly, Israel's refusal to make peace.

Again since the report was written, the Soviet Union has urged Syria to change its military strategy from "parity" to "sufficiency" as a cost-cutting measure. It is Fuller's second "grim scenario" that is tied into Palestinian concerns about immigration.

If the Israelis refuse to move toward accommodation, it will force the leaders of the Intifada to use tactics which may provide Israel with a pretext for expelling Palestinians from the occupied territories, making room for East European immigrants. Should the Intifada leaders resort to violence, "Israel's internal mood would then turn particularly ugly and the presence of a hostile Arab population inside Israel would become politically nearly intolerable. These developments would set the stage for all the extremely negative consequences of an expulsion scenario: at the least, a US-Israeli confrontation and the severing of Egyptian-Israeli ties."

This scenario is the outcome desired by such Israeli hardliners as Ariel Sharon and Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. They hope to force the Palestinians into violent actions, thereby allowing Israel to crush the Intifada and expel Palestinians from the occupied territories, thus making room for more Jewish immigrants.

The United States

Finally, the report addresses the role of the United States. This country, the report states, will inevitably be involved, either by "omission or commission." Fuller suggests that the American Jewish community could play a significant role by urging the White House to be more active in the peace process.

"Although the United States clearly cannot dictate terms to Israel or to the PLO, it is important that US policymakers have some analytic sense of where events are ultimately heading, or can head. Without that sense of political direction - even if it is not publicly articulated - trust in a blind process between unwilling partners will not work. The United States must also determine the likely cost of delay. Perhaps in a world where US-Soviet relations are played at a less zero-sum level, some degree of East-West urgency has drained from the issue. But it would also be a disservice to all regional parties if the East-West struggle was the primary issue that formed the American agenda."

The outcome of the present peace effort is still in doubt, but the elements required for peace are understood. This report, perhaps the most important American document to emerge to date from this conflict, should be read by all who are interested in peace between the Palestinians and Israel.

Omar M. Kader is a Palestinian activist in private business in Reston, in the United States. He is an adjunct professor of political science at the American University and former executive director of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC).

29 MARCH 1990

The Horn of Africa's mobile millions

By Fuad M. Fikry
Special to The Star

CAIRO - The refugee population in the four countries which constitute the Horn of Africa - Djibouti, Somalia and Sudan - now stands at almost two million. Some of the number, most notably the Ethiopians in eastern Sudan, have been living in exile for many years.

But others are the victims of more recent events. Since the beginning of 1987, the number of Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia has jumped from just over 100,000 to around 375,000. In less than two years, 40,000 Somalis have fled across the border into Ethiopia and Djibouti.

It is the analysts' considered view, however, that agencies like the UN High Commissioner for Refugees are in for a long haul, while success of diplomatic attempts at conflict management remains erratic at best.

Over the last 10 years, the number of animals in the area has grown. They come and drink from the river, as well water is difficult to locate and often very salty. As the animals move between the river and the bushland they eat whatever is available. Such grazing has added to the environmental problem; the result is increased soil erosion, soil degradation and desertification.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) experts quoted in the UN magazine Refugees believe the only way to effect a large-scale rehabilitation programme in the area is to reduce the level of livestock and human pressures on the land. If this is achieved, then nature can take care of itself. However that solution has its obvious drawbacks, because livestock more often than not is the only source of livelihood for many of the refugees and indigenous people.

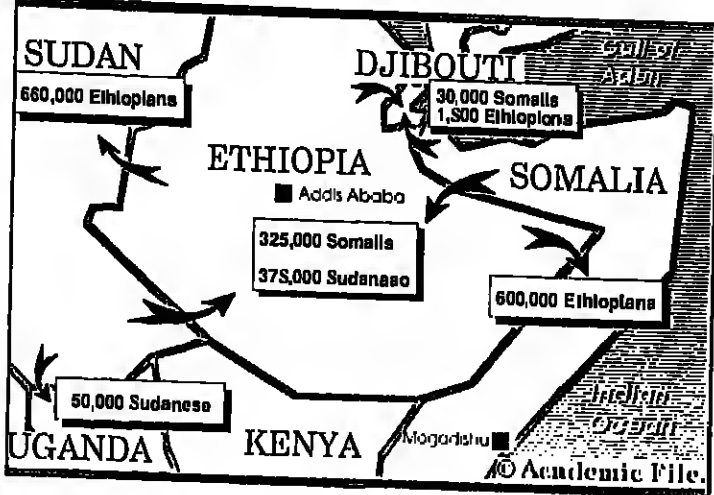
Refugees in recent years have been encouraged to return from exile. In 1986 the UNHCR reached an agreement with the governments of Ethiopia and Somalia to start a voluntary repatriation operation across the Dawa river, which links the two countries, at Dolo.

With a new footbridge constructed by the Federal Republic of Germany's technical assistance corps, and a fleet of trucks donated by the Italian aid fund, the programme was ready to begin. In December 1986 the first group of returnees stepped on to Ethiopian soil.

Since that time the voluntary repatriation programme has picked up considerable momentum, a development which reflects the normalisation of relations between the two countries, the demilitarisation of the border area, and the successful reintegration of the early returnees. More than 10,000 refugees have now joined the convoys.

But the repatriation programme has also brought some other important benefits to the region. "This operation has done us all a lot of good," a member of Ethiopia's Administration for Refugee Affairs was quoted as saying. "The new bridge has

Drought, famine, floods, persecution, war and civil conflict. Almost every kind of disaster known to mankind has afflicted the Horn of Africa in recent years. The result: massive movements of destitute and dispossessed people, both within their own countries and across international borders.



boosted the local economy - it means that traders can go backwards and forwards all the time. It's also contributing to the reconciliation between our two countries," he said. "For an operation like this to work so smoothly, we have to work together."

Wedge between Ethiopia and Somalia, Djibouti has enjoyed much greater peace and stability than its larger neighbours. But that blessing has proved to be mixed. In 1977, on the eve of the country's independence, the Ogaden conflict forced up to 40,000 Ethiopians to flee over the border into Djibouti - an influx equal to 10 per cent of the fledgling nation's population.

Most of those refugees have now left the country. The vast majority, at least 25,000, either made their own way back home or took part in UNHCR's organised voluntary repatriation programme. Nearly 9,000 others were resettled in other countries, notably the USA, Australia, Sweden and Canada.

Today, Djibouti has again emerged as a haven - only this time, a more reluctant one. Since May 1988, when intense fighting broke out in northern Somalia, some 30,000 people have sought refuge in this tiny, undeveloped country. Many came directly, crossing into Djibouti by foot, while others made their way via Ethiopia, sometimes stopping in refugee camps there before continuing their journey by train, truck and foot.

The attraction is a natural one, since a majority of the Djibouti people are themselves of Somali ethnic and linguistic origin. The result is that the new arrivals have flooded into the poorer areas of the capital, where they are helped out by friends, relatives, or members of their own clan. Most have no other way to get by.

With practically no arable land or industry, a health and education system already stretched to breaking point and high levels of unemployment, officials argue that the country lacks the means

to support a new wave of refugees. By granting formal asylum, they say, Djibouti would be swamped - either by refugees who are currently living in camps in Ethiopia or by new arrivals escaping from violence in northern Somalia.

Ethiopia has witnessed one of the largest and speediest influxes of recent times. In the last three years, over 600,000 people have flooded into the country, bringing the total refugee population to around 700,000. This number is divided equally between Somalis who have crossed into southeastern Ethiopia, and Sudanese who have made their way to the southwest. While they are now safe from the conflicts which caused them to flee, both groups of refugees find themselves living in very difficult circumstances.

Sudan is a home for around 740,000 refugees, some of whom have lived there for as long as 20 years. Its current refugee population consists of approximately 660,000 Ethiopians, 70,000 Chadians, 5,000 from Uganda and 4,500 Zaireans. Although it is an extremely poor country, with many problems of its own, Sudan has always been ready to share its limited resources with those who have sought refuge on its territory.

The presence of the refugees has a mixed effect. On the one hand, they put a strain on the area's already limited public services, especially the water supply, hospitals, clinics and schools. On the other hand, they provide an invaluable workforce for Sudanese farmers, traders and craftsmen.

But as Ahmed Karadawi, from the office of the Sudanese Commissioner for Refugees (COR), explains, real solutions to refugee problems must start not in host countries, but in countries of origin. "Peace is the overriding prerequisite for a lasting solution. The only way to stop the refugee influx is through the resolution of conflict," he asserts.

UNRWA appeals for release of Alec Collett on fifth anniversary of his abduction in Lebanon



Collett's wife and son

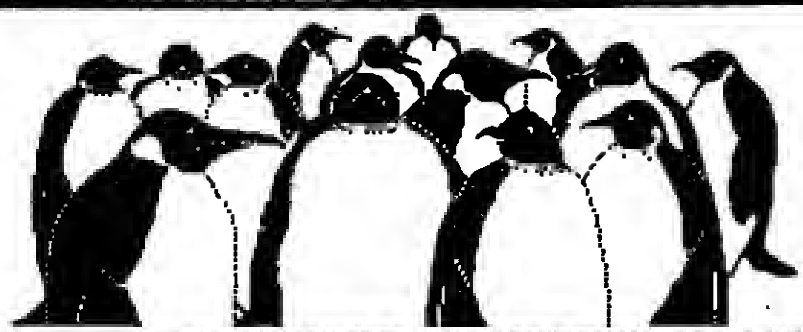
es to his family. In April 1986, a videotape was received by a Beirut television station which purported to show Mr Collett being hanged.

Nothing further has been heard about Mr Collett's fate, despite repeated appeals by UNRWA Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli for any information about his whereabouts. In public

statements and private contacts with influential regional leaders, Mr Giacomelli has repeatedly sought information about Mr Collett and has appealed to his captors to release him if he is still alive.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has also called repeatedly for Mr Collett's release or for information about him. The safety of UN employees in the performance of their duties is one of the most critical imperatives of the world organization's privileges and immunities, Mr de Cuellar has said.

Mr Collett, a former UN information officer, lived in New York City, where his wife Elaine and 16-year-old son Karim still reside. Mrs Collett took part last December in a Human Rights Day commemoration at UN headquarters for the more than 100 UN staff members missing or detained in various parts of the world. (UNRWA)



Amman Town

Amman Plaza Hotel hosted the annual celebration of Mother's Day by honouring the mothers of the Amman SOS village. A comprehensive programme was organised by the hotel on last Tuesday, which included a luncheon, games and gifts presentations. The gifts were made by the SOS children at the village's kindergarten and the children's club. The village's administration also presented gifts to all mothers in appreciation of their role in taking care of the children. Nine mothers reside at the village taking care of 68 children who live in 9 family houses.



Two US students visit Jordan to research tourism industry

By Riham Dajani
Special to The Star

JORDAN IS much more impressive than the literature we read made us believe," said Barbara Jean Ross one of two American Tourism Hotel Management students at Cornell University in the United States. Having visited most of Jordan's ancient and modern places of interest, Ross, 30, and Steven Gray, 23, plan to write about their experiences and publish them in the United States as part of their research on marketing tourism in Jordan.

Ross and Gray are two of 25 students who were required to write research papers on promoting Jordanian tourism and they were the lucky ones to be chosen

to visit the Kingdom.

Twelve papers were received, studied and evaluated by a committee of members of the Ministry of Tourism, the Jordan Hotel Association (JHA) and Royal Jordanian which invited the students and organised their trip to Jordan.

Previously the President of JHA Mr Fakhri Tawal delivered a lecture at Cornell University upon the invitation of Prof. William Carlin who organised a three-day marketing seminar in Jordan last year. While at Cornell Mr Tawal talked about Jordan, its people and the tourism industry in the Kingdom.

The two American students, who left Amman on Monday, said Jordan has surpassed their expectations. This was their first visit to the Middle East. They said it was a shame that not many people in their country know of Jordan and its heritage.

During their stay in Jordan the two students met with Her Majesty Queen Noor and discussed with her ways to improve the

marketing of tourism in Jordan with special focus on developing touristic sites, building new hotels and preserving the environment.

The first public screening of Palestinian film director Michel Khleifi's latest production "Nashid Al Hajar" (stone ballad) will take place in Amman at Philadelphis cinema on 1 April.

The screening, organised by the Cinema Committee of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, will be repeated on 2 and 3 April at the foundation, and proceeds will go to Jordanian Popular Committee for the support of the Intifada.

Khleifi is a well-known Palestinian director living in Belgium whose "works are considered the beginning of the Palestinian cinema," according to Jordanian cinema critic Adnan Mdanat.

In "Nashid Al Hajar," Khleifi, who is currently living in Brussels depends on both dramatization, and scenes from real life to convey the everyday life of Palestinians under occupation, as well as the changes it has brought upon the lives of Palestinians.

Khleifi arrived in Amman on Wednesday and will attend the screening of his film which he will also present at (Cannes) Film Festival this year.

The Jordan Bridge Association (JBA) delegations which participated in the Damascus Bridge Championship last week returned to Amman on Sunday.

Bahjat El Majaly and Fayed Qaddoumy came in third in the open pairs event, they came in third as well in the open teams together with Ghassan and Marwan Ghanem as team mates.

Naba Hatter and Ghassan Ghanem captured the first place in the mixed pairs events.

Congratulations to the winners and to all delegation members

Ramadan Thoughts

Understanding Ramadan

THE HOLY month of Ramadan is here again. This is the time of the year when Muslims are united all over the world by this spiritual season. Alas, most of us fail to underscore the meanings embedded in the Ramadan message. For the majority, the Ramadan message is marred by the act of enduring corporal needs and desires and satisfying them once the sun has set.

Ironically the message of Ramadan is defeated by most of those who fast. Spirituality, patience, good conduct, moderation and generosity towards the deprived are seldom understood or observed by our hyper-consumer societies.

In Jordan, this Ramadan will be unlike any other in recent years. Now that the boom has become a distant memory and the lean years are here to stay for sometime, I am alarmed by the fact that a state of emergency is about to be declared by the Ministry of Supply in order to provide thousands of tons of meat, chicken and other consumer goods in the market. In fact, the amount of food we will be consuming during the holy month seems to be double that of regular months, when the case should be the opposite. Isn't this a sad fact and a somber reality?

I am sure economists will agree that average Jordanians will not be saving but overspending during Ramadan. I am sure we, as hungry consumers, will be fueling inflation and price hikes as when our economy is saddled with a number of diseases. And I am sure that overall what will be thrown to waste of these goods will be far more than what we actually need to satisfy our appetites and quench our thirst.

I had wished that the difficult economic times would have changed our consumer habits -- to the better so that we begin to save more, spend little and reach a state of healthy moderation. But this is not the case.

The fault is not in Ramadan but in ourselves. We fail to understand the meaning of fasting beyond the physical punishment of not eating or drinking from dawn to dusk. Before, we could afford to pay for our ignorance, but now we can't.

Ibrahim Zaki

New communications system at the Marriott

AS PART of its continuing efforts to keep up with the ever changing demands of the business world, and to upkeep the high standards of quality service that its customers are used to, the Amman Marriott Hotel has recently completed the process of installing a new communications system throughout the hotel.

The new system includes a state of the art Northern Telecom telephone system offering the Marriott business guest network hook-up capabilities through computer modems.

The Marriott Food and Beverage system is now directly linked with the Front Office Management System through special point of sale Micros, a move that has increased the speed as well as the efficiency of service by computerising the entire hotel.

Part of the new system is a direct Reuter News Agency line to the Marriott traveller abreast of the world news. Almost completed for convenient and speedy check in and check out is a new video system which will enable the guest to complete forms in a matter of minutes.

for a very successful trip. The US Navy Ship USS Simpson will pay a port call in Aqaba from 29 March to 3 April.

Ships of the US Navy's Middle East Force regularly call at Aqaba as part of their programme visits to friendly states in the region. Past visits to Aqaba have been very much enjoyed by the ship's personnel. While in Aqaba, officers of the ship will pay calls on military and civilian officials and participate in social events with local residents. The ship's crew will participate in

sporting events with Jordanian soldiers and visit Petra. The USS Simpson is an Oliver Hazard Perry Class Frigate.

Subscribe

Save...

Enjoy...

Call us now: 646466

29 MARCH 1990



Cartier comes back to life

By Victoria Jean

FOR THREE months, the Petit Palais in Paris was the most sparkling museum in the world. The exhibition, inaugurated there by the mayor of Paris, Mr Jacques Chirac, is devoted to the work of one of the most famous jewellers of our time, and of yesterday, Cartier.

"Cartier Art" tells the history of a century of fabulous creations made between 1850 and 1960, in 140 pieces of jewellery, 80 various accessories (from a perfume bottle to a lighter), 100 strange or refined clocks and watches, and 300 drawings.

It is also the whole adventure of four generations of Cartier which unfolds in the form of diamonds, pearls, rubies, sapphires, gold, silver, onyx, coral and so on, scattered throughout 18 rooms where one can see Mata Hari's adornments, tiaras belonging to the belles of the Roaring Twenties and Jean Cocteau's academician's sword, as well as Marshall Foch's baton, or the cigarette-case given by Winston Churchill to his son.

It is an epic which began in 1847 in rue Montorgueil, with Louis Francois Cartier, which continued a stage further in Boulevard des Italiens and arrived in Rue de la Paix today. But it is also an epic which passionately and attentively passes through all styles, from the sumptuousness of the Second Empire to the colourful gaiety of Art Deco in the 30s, up into the naturalism of the 1950s.

Cartier was certainly an acknowledged and esteemed creator. Princess Mathilde and Empress Eugenie were among his customers last century. But Cartier also had a nose for business and, as time passed, he could be found in London, and then in New York.

By the beginning of the 20th century, the Cartier firm had acquired a world reputation and became the official supplier of the kings of England and Spain and the royal families of Russia and Greece.

But this renown did not put an end to their universal curiosity which made them want to see everything representing the world repertoire in decoration. Themes inspired by mysterious China or Ancient Egypt (the tombs of the pharaohs were discovered) were to give birth to marvellous, unbelievable pieces of jewellery.

There were also meetings with men who, in turn, were to be inspired by this "Cartier Art".

In 1927, Paul Claudel, French ambassador in Washington, made friends with Pierre Cartier, and this friendship resulted in an essay: "The mystique of precious stones".

Love and art go together and Paul's son was to marry Pierre's daughter.

History and art also go together and, in London, Cartier's sales director was one of the first Frenchmen to support General de Gaulle. The symbols of the free French forces were to come out of the Cartier workshops in London, and the Lorraine Cross was to start on its way.

In fact, practically every object in the exhibition has a tale to tell, and one's eye wanders to the Duchess of Windsor's panther brooch in the room devoted to her jewellery.

Should one be surprised that the French academicians could have fallen for such beauty and such purity? In 1931 the Duke de Gramont was the first to have his academicians' sword (as a member of the Academie Francaise) made by the famous jeweller. He was followed by Francois Mauriac, Georges Duhamel and Jean Cocteau.

The Jordan Bridge Association (JBA) announces its Ramadan activities schedule as follows:

Saturdays 4:00 pm (Lessons for beginners), Sundays 8:30 pm (Open pairs), Tuesdays 8:30 pm (Open pairs), Wednesdays 8:30 pm (Mixed pairs), Thursdays 3:00 pm (Open teams), and Fridays 8:30 pm (Open teams).

The association will be open at 3:00 p.m. daily during Ramadan. All members and guests are welcome. For any information please call JBA telephone number 676990.

29 MARCH 1990



Horse Show

Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Hussein, an Arabian thoroughbred show and beauty contest was held at the Royal Jordanian State Stud last Thursday. The event, the first of its kind in the Arab World, was organised by Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental, Royal Jordanian and Dunhill.

Princess Alia said the show was organised in co-operation with the European Committee of the Arab Horse Society (see story on page 24). President of the UAE team Adnan Sultan expressed his appreciation of the organisation of the show and the high standard of the contest. He said the UAE will request that it organises the show in Abu Dhabi next year. Qatar will host the competition in December.

Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan's stallion Vain Hussar won the first prize and Jordan's Najma belonging to Saïd Khair won the first place for her class.



Jaffer Al Moumni

Jaffer's sight restored after five long years

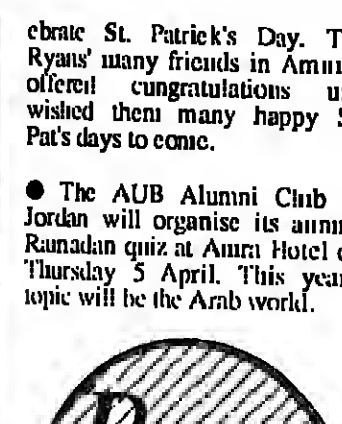
FIVE YEARS after he lost his eyesight, 11-year-old Jaffer Al Moumni was operated upon in West Germany. The operation, which has performed on 1 March, was a success and few weeks later Jaffer was back in Jordan with his family to live a normal life.

The story of Jaffer who suffered from a disease which damaged his corneas, had reached His Majesty King Hussein who called Jordan Radio and announced that he will pay for Jaffer's medications anywhere in the world.

Jordanian doctor Butros Al Taweeel was listening to Amman radio from West Germany. He called the station and announced that a German doctor has agreed to perform the operation free of charge. In addition a hospital in Germany declared that it will provide the necessary cornea. In Germany Jordanians from all walks of life came forward to contribute financially and morally to Jaffer's welfare. Mrs Taweeel accompanied Jaffer for the duration of his stay in the hospital and later when Jaffer moved in to stay in her house. The boy was received in Amman by His Highness Prince Raad. The most moving moment was when Jaffer saw his mother upon his return five years after he lost his eyesight.

And to be sure he was the most beautiful baby in the hospital. Or so the story goes about Padraic Benedict Carroll Ryan who was born at the Al Khaleel Hospital on 16 March. Parents Michael and Maureen Ryan were delighted that Padraic joined them in the time to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The Ryan's many friends in Amman offered congratulations and wished them many happy St. Pat's days to come.

The AUB Alumni Club of Jordan will organise its annual Ramadan quiz at Amman Hotel on Thursday 5 April. This year's topic will be the Arab world.



Jaffer Al Moumni

Recipe

TROUT FILLET FLORENTINE

As prepared by chef Wolfgang of Amman Marriott Hotel

INGREDIENTS:

Trout Fillet, Skin on	180 grams per person
Lemon Juice	1 Tbsp
Salt	to taste
Pepper	to taste
Butter	1 Tbsp

PREPARATION:

Fillet the trout, spice with salt, pepper and lemon juice. Turn in flour and saute golden brown from both sides.

Spinach, cooked, coarsely chopped	100 grams
Onion	10 grams
Garlic	1 clove
Olive oil	1 Tbsp
Salt & Pepper	to taste

Saute onions in olive oil until shiny, add garlic, saute, add spinach, spice with salt and pepper.

TOMATO SAUCE

INGREDIENTS:

Tomatoes	2 each
Garlic paste	1/2 Tsp
Butter	20 grams
Salt, Pepper and Sugar	to taste
White wine	1 Tbsp

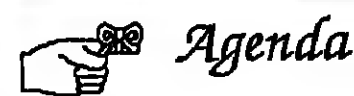
PREPARATION:

Dip tomatoes into boiling water and run them through a hand sifter. Melt 10 grams butter, add garlic, tomato puree, salt, pepper, sugar and white wine. Reduce and fold the remainder of the butter into it.

PLATE:

Pour tomato sauce on the plate add the spinach, top off with the trout fillet and serve with pommes nature.

THE STAR 17



Agenda

Films

● The American Center presents the feature film "It's a Wonderful Life" starring James Stewart, Thursday 29 March. Also on Sunday 1 April the Center presents "American in Paris" starring Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron. Both films start at 3:00 pm.

● The French Cultural Center presents the feature film "SI Versailles M'etaite Conte" starring Jean-Louis Barrault, Monday 2 April at 8:30 pm.

● Abdul Hamid Shamon Foundation presents the film "Fertile Memory" by Palestinian director Michel Khleifi on Saturday 31 March. Also by Khleifi "Nasheed Al Hajar" will play at

Philadelphia Cinema (special screening for the support of the Intifada), Sunday 1 April. The film will also be shown at the foundation on Monday and Tuesday (16 mm).

Exhibitions

● The French Cultural Centre presents an exhibition by Ahmad Nawash, starts 1 April and runs until 8 April.

● Esam Tantawi's exhibition continues at Alia Art Gallery until Sunday 1 April.

● Spanish art exhibition will end at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) on Friday 30 March.

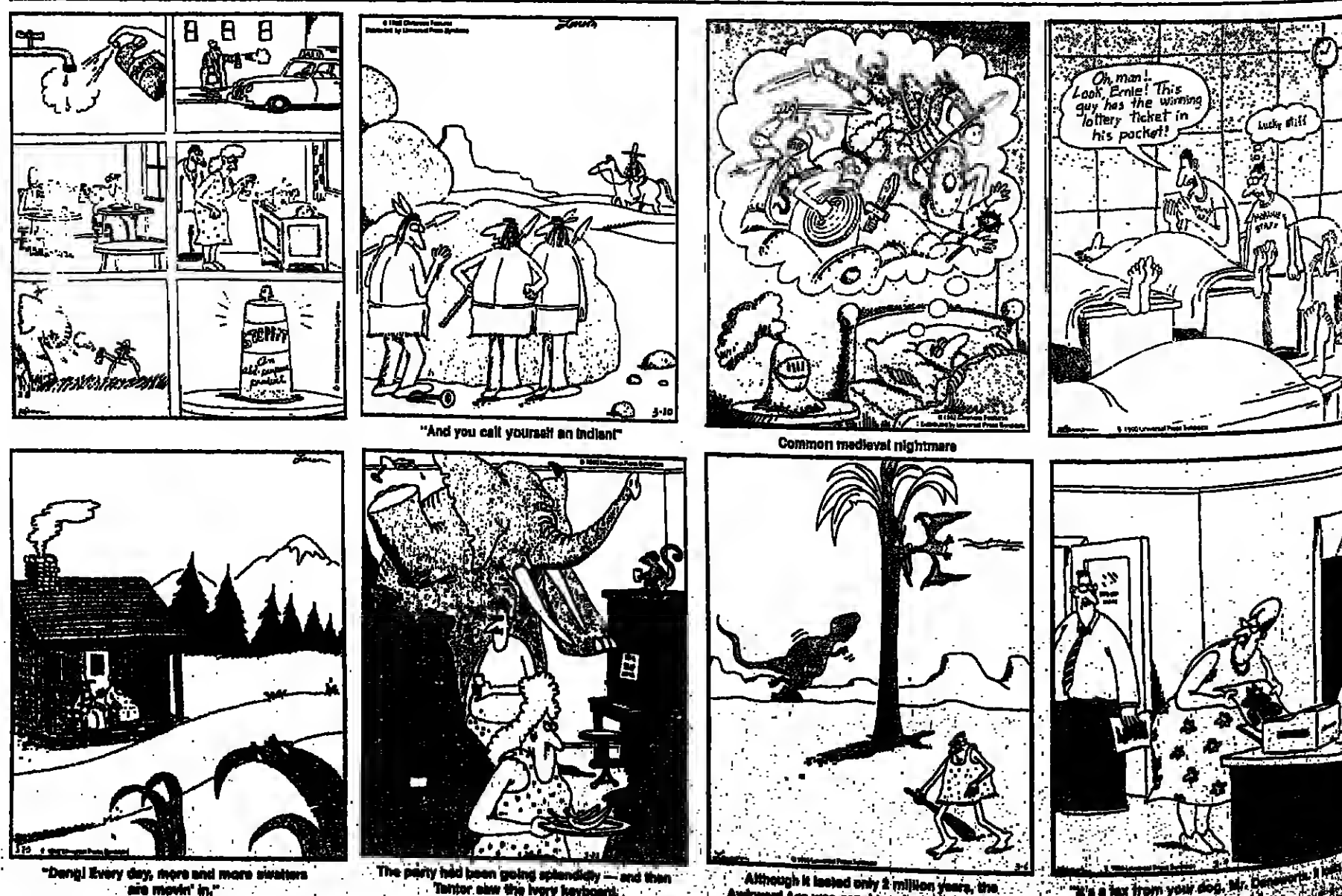
Trips

● The Friends of Archaeology will be visiting the sites in the Feinan area on Friday 30 March. Departure from the Amra Hotel at 7:30 a.m.



The Far Side

By GARY LARSON



Paris Summer fashions



Summer fashions have been revealed by Paris fashion houses. On the right, embroidered dress in silk chiffon with diamante from the St. Gall embroidery specialist Jakob Schlapfer in Switzerland. This is a model from the summer collection of Jean-Louis Scherrer. Paris, An evening gown (left) in Swiss ribbed velvet for a model from the collection of Yves Saint Laurent.

US Sports Round-up

SPORTS FROM THE PRESSBOX

By Lee Lerner

Buster Douglas is suing Don King. King is suing Douglas. And not to be left out, Donald Trump has filed a suit for the rights to host Douglas' next heavyweight title fight.

That's the sad state of boxing these days, where most action is taking place out of the ring in legal battles.

It is truly unfortunate that the result of the greatest upset in boxing history — Douglas' knockout of Mike Tyson — is a plethora of legal tangles and arguments over contractual obligations.

However, it's no surprise that promoter King is at the center of the dispute. He wants to keep a hand in the champ's pocket and claims he has legal recourse to do so.

Douglas, of course, wants out of the clutches of King, but he may have to prove the pact he signed with the devil, uh make that King, should be nullified.

It's quite a mess, and it doesn't end there. Don't forget about millionaire Trump, who fancies his Atlantic City Palace as a

boxing mecca. When the news broke that the new Mirage resort in Las Vegas would host Douglas' title fight against top contender Evander Holyfield, Trump — you guessed it — decided to take legal action.

Outside of his marriage, Trump must figure there's nothing he can't control. So off he goes to the courts.

But wouldn't it be a lot more fun if Trump and the owner of The Mirage just put on the gloves and duked it out to see where the title bout should be held? How about King and Douglas' manager, John Johnson, stepping into the ring to decide like men who should be able to tap into Douglas' riches.

SPORTS LINE

By Dale Dunlop

Baseball lockout or no lockout, a owner's job is never done. Particularly if you own your own Fantasy Baseball League franchise. Fantasy or Rotisserie League baseball allows a group of fans to get together and draft players based on what they think their statistics may be that season.

A key to a successful Fantasy League draft is getting adequate backups to your starters. Here are a



END OF DREAM—UConn's Nadav Henefeld battles Duke's Brian Davis for a rebound in Saturday's NCAA East Regional Finals in East Rutherford, N.J. which Duke won in overtime, 79-78, to advance to the "Final-Four".

few players who you may overlook or under rate on your draft day:

CATCHER — Todd Zeile, rookie, St. Louis Cardinals. I know rookies are not safe investments this year, but he's different. He has the ability to hit at a position where good hitters are scarce.

FIRST BASE — Mark Grace, Chicago Cubs. He will make a big leap forward in power and production this year.

SECOND BASE — Jerry Browne, Cleveland Indians. He's young, can hit for average and runs the bases very well.

SHORTSTOP — Jeff Blauser, Atlanta Braves. Given the job after having to move for Andre Thomas last year. Not as much

power, but a better hitter than Thomas.

THIRD BASE — Ken Caminiti, Houston Astros. Came on in 1989 and should continue in development more power.

OUTFIELD — Tom Brunansky, St. Louis Cardinals. Consistency is his most obvious asset. He will hit 20 homers and drive in 80 runs.

STARTING PITCHER — Pat Combs, Philadelphia Phillies. He's 23 and has limited pro experience. But he went 4-0 with 2.09 ERA in six starts with a bad Phillies team.

RELIEF PITCHER — Craig Lefferts, San Diego Padres. He's replacing a monster in Mark Davis, but he's not exactly Bob Stanley either.

Music Box

TOP POP ALBUMS

1. Forever Your Girl, Paula Abdul, Virgin
2. Girl You Know It's True, Milli Vanilli, Arista
3. Janet Jackson's Rhythm Nation 1814, Janet Jackson, A&M
4. Soul Provider, Michael Bolton, Columbia
5. Cosmic Thing, The B-52's, Reprise
6. Storm Front, Billy Joel, Columbia
7. Dancin'... Ya Know It!, Bobby Brown, MCA
8. ... But Seriously, Phil Collins, Atlantic
9. Pump, Aerosmith, Geffen
10. Full Moon Fever, Tom Petty, MCA

TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

1. Lane Wolf, Hank Williams Jr., Warner Bros.
2. Killin' Time, Clint Black, RCA
3. No Holdin' Back, Randy Travis, Warner Bros.
4. RSV III, Ricky Van Shelton, Columbia
5. Simple Men, The Charlie Daniels Band, Epic
6. Pickin' On Nashville, The Kentucky Headhunters, Mercury
7. Garth Brooks, Garth Brooks, Capitol
8. Leave the Lights On, Loretta Morgan, RCA
9. Willow in the Wind, Kathy Mattea, Mercury
10. Reba Live, Reba McEntire, MCA

MAGICWORD

HOW TO PLAY: Read the list of words. Look at the puzzle. You'll find these words in all directions — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards. Draw a circle around each letter of a word found in the puzzle, then strike it off the list. Chasing it will show a letter has been used but will leave in words first. When letters of all listed words are circled, you'll have the given number of letters left over. They'll spell out your MAGICWORD.

BABY, YOU'RE THE GREATEST!
(Sol: 12 letters)

A-Alice; B-Bang-zoom, Bensonhurst, Bowling, Brooklyn, Bus driver; C-Cassidy, Chauncey Street; F-Fensterblau; G-Get out, Golf; J-Jackie Gleason; K-Kramden; L-Lodge dues, Loud, Love; M-Mambo, Measles, Moax, Money, Mr. Marshall; N-Norton, Nutty; P-Pal-o-mine, Pizze; R-Racoon, Ralph; S-Scheme, Sewer, Sleep-walker; T-Theima, To the moon, Trixie; W-Wife; Y-Yell

TEERTSYECNUAHCO
BETRBUSDRIVEREN
RMHUALBRETSNEFN
OBBFNLODGEDUESO
OHLGSPYYFRMNKS
KCMOZHEHRIERARA
LSAGONEONWKMAAE
YGETOUTONYLAOML
NGIMMLUDYARLDG
ONXAOOMMEOWSABE
TIIMEASLESPPHNI
RLRHMSLOVEBAUK
OLWBALCEMELZTC
NOOCAREWESLLZTA
TEBNSONHURSTAYJ

ROCK TRACKS

By Joel Zarrow

Release of Carlos Santana's much-anticipated 30th LP — "Spirits Dancing in the Flesh" — is being pushed back to April. "I may have to do one more song," says the legendary guitarist. At this point I'm not interested in getting hits; I'm interested in moving people with the music," Santana adds that whether or not the album's done, "I'm going on tour this summer to Canada, Europe, Australia." Stories that say Santana will play South Africa to celebrate the release from prison of Nelson Mandela are untrue. Santana wants everyone "to understand Mandela's release is not the end of apartheid. When this has been accomplished, then will be the time to celebrate with a free concert in the streets of South Africa."

After two years of silence, Canadian rocker Corey Hart is hitting the scene with a "Bang!" LP that goes into shops this month. He reveals it'll be awhile — again — before he goes back into the recording studio. "I want to move in a new direction artistically, begin writing and producing for other artists," he says. Hart is in the midst of putting together a summer tour to support "Bang!" It's his first concert trek since 1986 and he says the delay was not because he wasn't interested in touring. "I got lost in the shuffle with some of the politics and leadership changes at the record label," he says. "I'm anxious to get out there." Joining him on the road will be John Cougar Mellocamp drummer, Kestoy Aronoff, whom Hart calls "the powerhouse behind much of the magic on 'Bang!'"

Whitehouse's David Coverdale says that four months into production of the group's new hit, "Slip of the Tongue" LP, "I had an anxiety attack. I became intimidated by the success of our last album, which sold more than 10 million copies. I thought, 'Even if this one sells 5 million copies, people will say it's a flop.'" Since recording "Tongue," Coverdale has adopted a new attitude: "I'm at a very positive and optimistic time in my life, so I refuse to think negatively about how it'll sell." "Tongue" has already sold more than 2 million copies and the band is in the midst of a successful U.S. tour. Then it'll roll to Europe and the Far East and after that, "If the U.S. wants more, we'll tour here again."

Movie Market

TOP VIDEO RENTALS

1. Lethal Weapon 2, Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Warner Home Video, (R-1989)
2. Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, Harrison Ford, Sean Connery, Paramount Home Video, (PG-13-1989)
3. Karate Kid III, Ralph Macchio, Pat Morita, RCA/Columbia (PG-1989)
4. Turner & Hoche, Tom Hanks, Touchstone Home Video (PG-1989)
5. When Harry Met Sally ..., Billy Crystal, Meg Ryan, Nelson Home Entertainment (R-1989)
6. Uncle Buck, John Candy, MCA Home Video (PG-1989)
7. Kickboxer, Jean-Claude Van Damme, (R-1989)
8. License to Kill, Timothy Dalton, CBS-Fox Video (PG-13-1989)
9. Do the Right Thing, Danny Aiello, Cuba Gooding Jr., MCA Home Video, (R-1989)
10. Weekend at Bernie's, Andrew McCarthy, Jonathan Silverman, IVE (PG-13-1989)

Video Rentals in Jordan

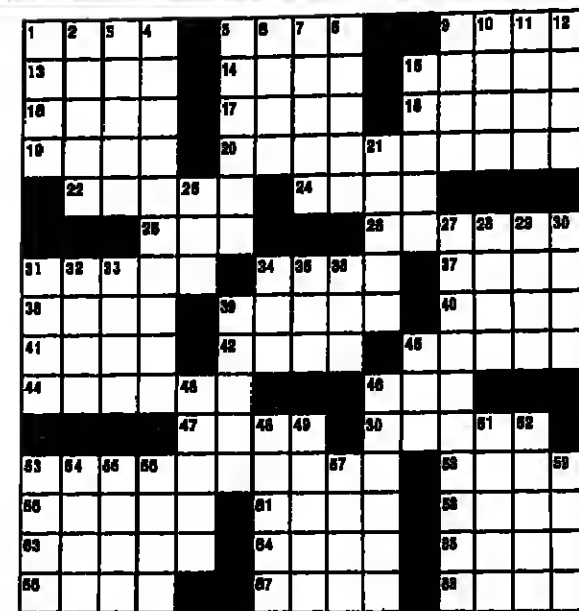
- Born on the 4th of July, Tom Cruise.
- Everybody Wins, Nick Nolte, Debra Winger.

THE STAR 2

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

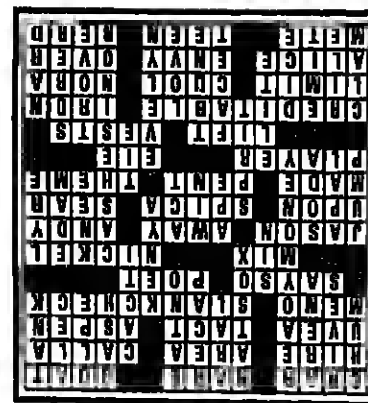
- 1 Scorch
- 5 Lagomorph
- 9 Get one's — (file)
- 13 Take on
- 14 L x W
- 15 — spade a
- 16 Eye part
- 17 Social asset
- 19 Kind of poplar
- 19 Reform
- 20 Free hand
- 22 Authority
- 24 Nesh a.g.
- 25 Put together
- 29 — and-dime
- 31 Actor Roberts
- 34 Not at home
- 37 Cops of the comics
- 38 Once — a time
- 36 Kind of bandage
- 40 Brown as meat
- 41 Earned
- 42 Confined
- 43 Central thought
- 44 Athlete
- 46 "—, I, o"
- 47 Filch
- 50 Waistcoat
- 53 Fairway club
- 59 Boundary
- 61 Unruffled
- 62 A literary Ephron
- 63 Wonderland girl
- 64 Bagrudo
- 65 Before hand or head
- 69 Apportion
- 67 Youngstar
- 66 Twit



DOWN

- 1 Crony
- 2 Skin condition
- 3 Where the action is
- 4 Cash on hand
- 5 Milliner's item
- 6 Inland sea
- 7 Summarize
- 9 "Jack Sprat could —"
- 9 Deep notch
- 10 Wine flask
- 11 Author Waugh
- 12 War vehicle
- 15 Prickly para
- 21 Netrol's land
- 23 Tranagraa
- 27 Prolita
- 29 Patella's place
- 28 Cheese typo
- 30 Harp's kin
- 31 Spring
- 32 "Oh, what — was Mary?"
- 33 Fizzy drink
- 34 Copy
- 35 Break the tape
- 36 Perform
- 39 Sail pole
- 43 Make a bow
- 45 Upper crust
- 46 Writer Waugh
- 49 Gam surface
- 49 Steak
- 51 Cachet
- 52 More milled
- 53 Tight-lipped one
- 54 Mill
- 55 Give off
- 56 No — (tulle)
- 57 Tennis term
- 58 Oniment of old

Solution



Jordan Bridge

By Ghassan Ghanem

HANDS FROM DAMASCUS

Last Friday we left Amman for Damascus very early in the morning to join our players who were participating in the Damascus Bridge Championship.

Three sessions of open pairs were already over. Fayed Qaddoumy and Bahjat El-Majaly finished third despite their unexpected last round's disasters. Huda Kanan and Randa Abusoud gave the second best performance among our pairs.

A strong field of mixed pairs produced a very heated competition. Nuha Hatlar and her partner finished first over all in both sessions (56% & 67%) to capture the first position. Sawasf of Damascus were just behind them after they finished second in both sessions as well (55% & 66%). Now, back to some bridge. How do you bid the following hand after your opening of 1♠ is overcalled by 2♣ on your left then raised to 2♠ by partner:

	(WEST)	(EAST)
W. Dealer	♠ A9765	♠ J1084
E.W Vul	♥ AK3	♥ 75
	♦ 3	♦ A9864
	♣ Q1093	♣ 82

The winners bid the hand to an absolute top, they reached a good game via the sequence:

(WEST)	(NORTH)	(EAST)	(SOUTH)
1♠	2♣	2♠	pass
3♠	pass	4♠	—

After east's tough bid of 2♠ which was music to west's ears, west applied one of the most efficient tools by bidding 3♠.

Usually, cue bidding opponent suit below the level of 3N is a notrump probe unless one of the majors is bid and supported, then the cue bid becomes a short suit trial bid (S.S.T.B.).

When you apply a short suit trial bid, you ask partner to:

* Jump to game with no wasted values in the opponent suit.

* Bid three of the agreed major with wasted values in the opponent suit.

* Bid 3N with nine points, mostly concentrated in the opponent suit.

East jumped to 4♠ to show no wasted value in the diamond suit.

Replace the ♠A with the ♠A and the bidding would be the same, but if you replace the ♠A with the ♠K&J, then east would sign off in 3♠.

One point is worth mentioning regarding the play of the hand. The usual play of the combination of the spade suit is double finessing the spades, due to north overcall, a better play would be to cash the ♠A first, the odds having been changed after north overcall.

Take another hand, not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, partner opens 1♠ and your right hand opponent doubles for take out, what do you bid with:

♠ K1053 ♥ 3♠864 ♣ Q10985.

At the table, Nuha's most practical bid was the same one agreed by the partnership; 3♠, an inverted minor raise when not vulnerable. The highly pre-emptive bid pushed the opponents to 4♠ which was doubled for another absolute top.

JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Brace yourself for possible repercussions if an associate behaves erratically. Avoid overindulging in food or drink. A loved one needs more nurturing. Take a chance on a blind date. An excellent week to set realistic goals for yourself. A new car or home could be part of the picture. Focus on expanding your contacts and horizons. Romance brings a feeling of contentment.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): A stroke of good luck restores your faith in the human race. Do not take a professional's rejection personally. Someone could surprise you with a declaration of love. Be gentle with a child. A good week for freshening up something that has become stale. An entirely new approach may not be the right answer, however. You need to choose the very best option available.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): Be candid with close friends and family members but stop second-guessing their decisions. Romance becomes more exciting. You could receive a special reward. Share the limelight with those you love. Make this a very special time for romance. Show mate with attention. Friends and family members are likely to be out shopping for bargains. Make a careful analysis of where you stand financially.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): A breakdown in communication could lead to confusion or embarrassment. Do everything possible to straighten things out. Short trips and small social gatherings are favored this evening. Do not let your patience over delays spoil a weekend trip. Soon you will be able to achieve a more rewarding relationship with a member of the opposite sex. Write to a teen-ager.

LEO (23 July - 22 Aug.): Avoid scattering your energies. Joint projects and artistic endeavors enjoy favorable influence. Tackle one task at a time. An older person will help you if asked. Your social circle is changing. News arrives this week that will lift your spirits to the heights. Share your ideas with the rest of the family. You need to go slow if embarking on a new exercise programme.

VIRGO (23 Aug. - 22 Sept.): Well connected friends could help you find an important deal. Tie up any loose ends quickly so you can get away for a long weekend. You would be wise to double-check travel arrangements. Love and romance are growing stronger. Teamwork allows you to accomplish much that is positive and useful. A member of the opposite sex could be the dominant influence in your life right now.

LIBRA (23 Sept. - 22 Oct.): Curb any outside activities that could interfere with an important work project. A new occupational field looks promising. Send flowers to someone you have hurt. Romance could take an interesting turn. You may decide to go out of town this week. A changed scenery or celebrations is featured. Romance is enhanced by a peaceful setting. Be careful not to ask too much too soon.

SCORPIO (23 Oct. - 21 Nov.): You are in a more positive frame of mind now. Consult a lawyer if unsure about the fine print in a contract. It would be wise to dissolve an unrewarding relationship. Almost everything goes according to plan this week. Romance takes a meaningful turn. Singles moving closer to marriage. Do not react impulsively to an unexpected suggestion. Newspaper ads provide good job leads.

SAGITTARIUS (22 Nov. - 21 Dec.): A relationship could become strained. Something that seemed just fine in the past is no longer acceptable. A new hobby takes your mind off your worries. The bonds of friendship lead you to revise some of your plans. An older relative may need special assistance due to a health problem. Be a good listener when a teen-ager opens up.

CAPRICORN (22 Dec. - 19 Jan.): A difference of opinion arises and the best way to solve a problem. Be willing to try new methods. A change of direction is advised for romance, too. Show your tender, loving side. You are entering a period of change that could affect your residence or partnership. Show more enthusiasm for your mate's accomplishments. A family member has an important secret to share. Romance sizzles.

AQUARIUS (20 Jan. - 18 Feb.): Accept a loved one's apology gracefully. You need to relax some of the rules where a teen-ager is concerned. Your best to rise above an unexpected family expense. A Leo helps out. A change of scenery proves welcome. Acquaintances of all ages can form lasting friendships and make important contacts this week. Be careful not to search for excitement in places you should avoid.

PISCES (19 Feb. - 18 March): You are in a carefree mood this week. Do everything possible to calm someone who seems overwhelmed. Special measures ease when family members work together to reduce stress. Show your appreciation for their help. Now is the time to take a trip for business or a family reunion. The less outsiders know about your private life the better. An evening church service may hold special appeal.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN are born comedians. A tendency to be cut-and-mustard with those in authority means these youngsters are not a teacher's delight. They are adept at rationalizing their behavior. Change and variety are what these Aries will look for when seeking employment. They make frugal and honest workers, clever at recycling their acts to boost profits. Do not be surprised if these usually practical youngsters romanticize their personal relationships. They tend to view the world through rose-colored glasses.

COMICS

calvin and hobbes

